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BULLETIN

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THE MVC BULLETIN

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DEWEY F. PRUETT
Curator, Mississippi Valley Collection
Editor

MVC BULLETIN
No. 6 Spring, 1973

The NATURAL and CIVIL
HISTORY
OF THE
FRENCH DOMINIONS
IN
North and South America.

Giving a particular Account of the

CLIMATE,
SOIL,
MINERALS,
ANIMALS,
VEGETABLES,

MANUFACTURES,
TRADE,
COMMERCE,
AND
LANGUAGES,

TOGETHER WITH

The Religion, Government, Genius, Character, Manners and
Customs of the INDIANS and other Inhabitants.

ILLUSTRATED BY

Maps and Plans of the principal Places,

Collected from the best Authorities, and engraved by

T. JEFFERYS, Geographer to his Royal Highness the Prince of WALES.

PART I. Containing

A Description of Canada and Louifiana.

LONDON,

Printed for THOMAS JEFFERYS at Charing-Cross.

MDCCCLX.

A Description of Louisiana

By Thomas Jefferys

from his

Natural and Civil History of the

French Dominions in North and South America

Edited with an Introduction by

C. Edward Skeen
Department of History
Memphis State University

Memphis
1973

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INTRODUCTION

Thomas Jefferys has been described as the "most competent English cartographer . . . of the eighteenth century." During the middle part of the eighteenth century he was one of the principal figures contributing to the rise of London as the world center of cartographic progress. He became the leading chart and map supplier of his day, and his workshop at 5 Charing Cross became the collecting center of much of the great mass of new cartographic data originated in North America and the West Indies during the French and Indian War (1754-1763). Here he and his apprentices fashioned the most authoritative maps of North America up to that time.

Jefferys did not consider himself as primarily a cartographer; rather, he always styled himself an "engraver." Little is known of his early life; even the date of his birth is unknown. Probably he was born sometime in the first decade of the eighteenth century. His early career, judging from his skill with copper-plates, was probably spent as an apprentice to an engraver, and it was as a map engraver and geographical publisher that he first built his reputation. His first known work, appearing in 1732, was composed essentially of reworked old plates, refined and improved. The lack of originality was due almost certainly to meager resources.

Jefferys' career took an upturn when Edward Cave, the influential publisher and editor of *Gentleman's Magazine*, took an interest in the young engraver's work. Jefferys did twenty or more maps for this important journal, and this work established his reputation for technical competence. It was undoubtedly through Cave's influence that Jefferys was appointed in 1746 as "Geographer" to H.R.H. Frederick, Prince of Wales. This position, though it conferred no special privileges or salary, was an indication that Jefferys had arrived professionally.

In 1750 Jefferys married and moved to larger quarters at 5 Charing Cross where he spent the rest of his life. He and his wife, Elizabeth, had seven children, four of whom survived their father. After 1750 Jefferys began concentrating his work on North America and the West Indian colonies. His position as geographer to the Prince of Wales apparently gave him access to or a special relationship with the Commissioners of Trade and Plantations. From their charts and the other data collected by the Royal Navy, Jefferys engraved his maps, many of which were then sold to the government departments. They gladly purchased the finished products which were much superior to previous maps both in execution and detail. Other departments, such as the Admiralty, provided map drafts for engraving, and Jefferys assiduously collected copper plates, maps, and charts from many sources.

The variety of Jefferys' business was remarkable. He often engraved maps for illustrations in other author's books, sometimes he served as the illustrator and publisher, and sometimes was merely the retailer for others. One notable project was a four volume compilation, *A Collection of the Dresses of Different Nations, Antient and Modern . . . After the Designs of Holbein, Van Dyke, Hollar, and Others* (1757-1772). Many colonial surveyors sent their work to Jefferys to be engraved, and many things "in the fashion of the age" Jefferys simply copied. For example, in 1755 Jefferys reprinted *The Journal of Major George Washington* in which he included a map of the Ohio River area. His sole venture into original cartographic work came in 1765 when he became involved in the production of a series of English county maps. The field surveys were such a financial drain that he was forced into bankruptcy, and though he continued his engraving work, his output was limited. He died on November 20, 1771.

The Natural and Civil History of the French Dominions in North and South America, of which "A Description of Louisiana" comprises a part, is an example of Jefferys as compiler, illustrator, and publisher, as well as the retailer. This work, as one reviewer astutely noted, was the reverse of the usual case where the maps were made for the book. Instead, this was a book "made for the maps." There is little doubt that the narrative served as a vehicle for Jefferys to sell his maps. The "Description of Louisiana," for example, borrows heavily from three main sources. The narrative describing the course of the rivers from the upper Mississippi Valley to the lower Mississippi is taken essentially from the account of Father Pierre François Xavier de Charlevoix. Father Charlevoix's journey was undertaken in 1721 and 1722, hence the Jefferys rendition has a certain dated quality. The natural history description of Louisiana is likewise borrowed from the account of Antoine Simon Le Page Du Pratz, a Dutchman, who arrived in Louisiana in 1718 and remained there until 1734. The third account utilized to a lesser extent by Jefferys is that by M. Dumont de Montigny, whose memoirs were published

in 1753. The value of Jefferys' account, therefore, is the rather dubious value of bringing together varied accounts into one narrative without always synthesizing them. Even one of the strengths of the book, Jefferys' maps, does not apply here. Although the larger work is replete with eighteen maps, only three, counting the one of New Orleans, include Louisiana or the Mississippi River system.

After thus establishing the fact that Jefferys' narrative is derivative and not original, it should be noted that except for occasional lapses he is faithful to the original accounts and, no doubt, miscopying accounts for many of these errors. On the other hand, errors made in the original sources are faithfully repeated by Jefferys. For example, Jefferys repeats the mistake of Charlevoix in placing the lake and village of Pimiteoui on the Illinois River (near present-day Peoria) at forty-one degrees latitude and the mouth of the Illinois at forty degrees latitude, although they are correctly located at approximately forty and thirty-nine degrees of latitude respectively. Jefferys, however, then miscopied the distance from Pimiteoui to the mouth of the Illinois at twenty leagues (as a general rule of thumb, five leagues equal twelve miles), instead of the more correct seventy league figure given by Charlevoix.

One of the problems faced by a reader interested in the Indian tribes described in Jefferys' account is the difficulty of identifying many of the names given with known tribes. The problem lies in the sources with their quaint spellings and occasionally mystifying names. It is impossible in some cases to connect the names of tribes referred to in the account with tribes known to have been in that area in the eighteenth century. Occasionally, a name given for a tribe was probably a settlement name of a branch of a tribe. Perhaps the best way to understand the account is to group the tribes into regions and linguistic stocks and follow the progression down the Illinois to the mouth of the Mississippi River as Jefferys does.

The first group were those along the Illinois River of the Algonquian linguistic family, generally referred to as the Illinois tribes. Among those mentioned by Jefferys are the Moingwena, Tamoroa, Cahokia, Peoria, Michigamea (the Theakiki or Wolf), and the related Fox (Outagami). Next came the Indians on the river systems flowing from the west into the Mississippi: the Missouri, Kansas, and Osage Rivers. The Indians of the so-called Chiwere division of the Siouan linguistic family include the Iowa, Missouri, and Oto tribes. Those of the Dhegiha division of the Siouan linguistic family are the Kansa, Osage, Quapaw, Omaha, and Ponca. There is another tribe mentioned later by Jefferys, the Biloxi, which although isolated from the rest is apparently related to the Siouan family.

Somewhat farther south in the area around the Arkansas and Red Rivers on the west side of the Mississippi River are found those Indians of the Caddo linguistic family. Included in this group are the Adai, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Kadahadacho, and Hasinai.

On the east side and along the Gulf of Mexico is the large group of Indians of the Gulf family of languages. Those of the Muskogean linguistic group mentioned in Jefferys' narrative (with slightly varied spellings) are the Chakchiuma and the related Taposa; the Chickasaw and the related tribes mentioned by Jefferys, the Thomez, Mowill, and Ofogoula; the Houma; the Choctaw; the Acolapissa and the related Bayogoula, Chawasha, and Washa; the Chatot; the Mobile and the related Pascagoula, Pensacola, and Tohome. Those of the Natchezan linguistic group are the Natchez, Taensa, and Avoyel. Two distinct linguistic groups are the Chitimachan and the Atakapan. Finally, there is the Tunican linguistic group which includes the Tunica, Griga, Tioux, Koroa, and Yazoo.

Jefferys' natural history account, as mentioned earlier, is borrowed heavily from Le Page Du Pratz. To the modern reader there is nothing very remarkable in these pages, but one can imagine the wonder it excited in Englishmen and Europeans while reading of the natural curiosities of North America.

Finally, Jefferys concludes his narrative on Louisiana with a discussion of the early settlement of this region, and he dwells at some length on the curious customs of the Amerindians. The latter was most certainly intended to enhance the sales potential of the book.

Jefferys' book was timely. It served the British statesmen of the time as a solid source of information in the welter of nearly one hundred pamphlets and books which appeared arguing either for or against the retention of the French territory in North America won as a result of the war. While Jefferys did not take sides in the so-called "Canada versus Guadeloupe" debate, his book was calculated to make any reader

aware of the rich potential of the area. Though his book was not a decisive factor in the British decision to take Canada, it undoubtedly served to reinforce decisions made for other reasons.

Finally, Jefferys' book, thanks primarily to his sources, presented the French concept of *le bon sauvage* to a British audience. Because of this work, Englishmen became more interested in the noble savage during the years that followed.

For these and other less tangible reasons, Jefferys' *Natural and Civil History*, though by no means intrinsically an outstanding work, nevertheless served statesmen and the general public. What was intended primarily as a device to sell maps, became one of the most significant publications of this era.

This biographical sketch of Jefferys' life is based primarily on three sources: Sir Leslie Stephen and Sir Sidney Lee, eds., *The Dictionary of National Biography* (London: Oxford University Press, 1921-22); J. B. Harley, "The Bankruptcy of Thomas Jefferys: An Episode in the Economic History of Eighteenth Century Map-Making," *Imago Mundi*, XX (1966), 27-48; John M. Bumsted, "Thomas Jefferys's History of the French Dominions," in Lawrence H. Leder, ed., *The Colonial Legacy: Some Eighteenth Century Commentators*, II (New York: Harper and Row, 1971), pp. 141-161. The major primary source used by Jefferys was Pierre François Xavier de Charlevoix, *Journal of a Voyage to North America*, 2 vols. (London: R. & J. Dodsley, 1761), reprint: March of America Facsimile Series, number 36 (Ann Arbor: University Microfilms, 1966). Volume II covers Louisiana. The other two basic sources are: Antoine Simon Le Page Du Pratz, *The History of Louisiana* (1774; reprint ed., New Orleans: J.S.W. Harmanson, n.d.); and Dumont de Montigny, *Memoirs Historiques sur la Louisiane*, 2 vols. (Paris: C.B.J. Bauche, 1753). The best source book on the Indians is John Reed Swanton, *The Indian Tribes of North America*, Bulletin 145 of the Smithsonian Institution, Bureau of American Ethnology (Washington: Smithsonian Press, 1952). A good general history of the Indians is Harold E. Driver, *Indians of North America*, Second Edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1969).

A

DESCRIPTION

O F

LOUISIANA.

THE province of *Louisiana*, or the Southern part of *New France*, extends, according to the *French* geographers, from the gulph of *Mexico*, in about 29 degrees, to near 45 degrees of North latitude, on the Western side, and to near 39 degrees on the Eastern; and from 86 to near 100 degrees W. longitude from *London*. It is bounded on the N. by *Canada*; on the E. by the *British* colonies of *New York*, *Pensilvania*, *Maryland*, *Virginia*, *North* and *South Carolina*, *Georgia*, and by the peninsula of *Florida*; on the South, by the gulph of *Mexico*; and, lastly, on the West by *New Mexico*. It contains, properly, the *French* settlements on both sides the *Mississippi*, and is, by some, said to be the noblest and richest province of all *North America*.

In that part which lies between the sea coast and *Point Coupé*, a tract of about eighty two leagues, the air is not very wholesome, because of the inundations of the *Mississippi*, which overflows regularly every year from the end of *March* to the beginning of *July*, during which all the country near the river is entirely under water. It has been remarked that the winters have been more severe, for some years past, than they were commonly known to be at the time when the *French* first settled here, occasioned, as is thought, by clearing the lands of the woods, or perhaps by some other unknown cause. The winter begins in this country about the end of *November*, and lasts till the end of *February*. During this season there blows a strong and piercing North Wind, and, whenever it changes from this point, the cold is interrupted by some intervals of moderate weather, and the sharpness of the winter begins to diminish. They remark three sorts of climates in this country: Towards the capital, and as high as *Point Coupé*, it sometimes freezes very hard, but seldom or never snows: From *Point Coupé*, as far as the country of the *Akanfas*, the air is milder and more temperate; but towards the country of the *Illinois*, at about five hundred leagues above *New Orleans*, the cold is extremely piercing; the river *Mississippi*, and others in its neighbourhood, are generally frozen to such a degree as to be passable by carriages. But, though the winter be severe, it is by far the most preferable season in this province, because of the great plenty of wild cattle, goats, and game of all sorts; whereas, in the summer, the inhabitants are forced to be contented with fish, which is however exceeding plentiful, as are also fruits and greens. This season lasts in *Louisiana* from *March* to *September*, with excessive heats, and those often followed by prodigious hurricanes. These storms are commonly accompanied with hail and thunder, and, in a country composed of woods, lakes, hills, and valleys, the continual echoes are very terrible. In the year 1737, at *New Orleans*, on a *Sunday*, fell a shower of hailstones, some of which were as large as hen's eggs. Another inconvenience attending the summer in this country is, that in this season the nights are as hot as the days, and the people are subject to such terrible sunburns as have been known to prove mortal, or else cause a peeling of the skin from the whole part affected. *Louisiana* has scarce any autumn, and the burning heats of summer are immediately succeeded by white frosts, which appear towards the middle of *September*, and yet, what is more singular, obstruct not in the least the growth of fallads and other garden stuff common in that season.

M m

The

Bounds of
Louisiana.

Temperatnre
of air and
seasons.

Climate different from those of *Africa* and *Europe*

The climate of *Louisiana* varies in proportion as it extends towards the North. In general, its southern parts are not scorched like those under the same latitudes in *Africa*, though its northern regions are colder than those of *Europe* under the same parallels. *New Orleans*, situated in thirty degrees, which is the latitude of the northern coasts of *Barbary* and *Egypt*, enjoys the same temperatute of climate with *Languedoc*. Two degrees higher, in the country of the *Natchez*, the climate is much more temperate than at *New Orleans*: And in the country of the *Illinois*, which lies in thirty five and thirty six degrees, the summer is no hotter than at *Rochelle* in *France*, though the ice is stronger, and the falls of snow much greater, in the winter.

Difference of climate from causes.

This difference of climate from what is found in *Africa* and *Europe* is attributed to two causes: The first is, the great quantity of wood, and the number of rivers in this country; the former of which prevents the sun's heat from reaching the surface of the earth, and the other occasions the great humidity of the atmosphere. To these we may add the vast extent of country stretching towards the North, those winds which traverse large tracts of land being found by experience to be much colder than such as come from the sea, or meet with large portions of that element in their passage. Hence it is no wonder that a North wind should cause the inhabitants to put on more cloaths, even in the summer, or that a South wind in the winter should have a contrary effect. Several days often pass in *Louisiana* without seeing the sun. There is no rain, however, but violent showers, such as accompany thunder; but this bad weather never continues long, and in half an hour the heavens resume their natural serenity. The dews are in such abundance, as to supply the want of rain in this country.

Hence its salubrity.

Hence we may easily account for the extraordinary wholesomeness of the air, and consequently for the just temperature of the blood, and that the inhabitants enjoy perfect health, free from acute diseases in their younger years, and retaining extraordinary vigour in old age; so that the span of life is no where extended to a greater length, nor with a happier state of health, than in *Louisiana*.

The same order will be observed in giving an account of the nature and situation of *Louisiana*, as in that of *Canada*. The description of this province will therefore properly begin with the country of the *Sioux* on the banks of the *Mississippi*, and by giving the most satisfactory account of the country on both sides that noble river to its mouth that can be found, not from hearsay, but from such as have travelled over it, and who, as they lived upon the spot, had all the necessary opportunities and advantages for that purpose, and who have made it their business to examine and illustrate the subject now before us.

Of the great river *Mississippi*.

The *Mississippi*, the chief of all the rivers of *Louisiana*, which it divides almost into two equal parts, was first discovered by Col. *Wood*, who spent almost ten years, or from 1654 to 1664, in searching its course; as also by Capt. *Bolt* in 1670, and in 1698 Dr *Cox* of *New Jersey* sent two ships, that discovered the mouth of this river, and sailing up 100 miles, took possession of the country, and called it *Carolana*. In 1699 the *French* first found this river, and called it *Colbert River*, in honour of their great minister, naming the country *Louisiana*. Some of the *Indian* nations in the Northern parts term it *Meshassipi*, or *The ancient Father of Rivers*, whence comes the name of *Mississippi*. They who inhabit the lower parts of the country call it, for what reason I know not, the *Balbaucha* or *Barbaucha*, but the name which the *French* sometimes give it, is the *St Louis*, and, by way of pre-eminence, *Le Fleuve*, or *The River*.

Vain attempts to discover its source.

Several attempts have been made by travellers, to discover the source of this river. Some voyagers, sent by M. de la Salle for this purpose, say that it takes its rise beyond the 50th degree of North latitude, in the country of the *Iffatis* an *Indian* nation, whose country lies to the West of *Canada*. According to them, it springs from a large fountain, situated at the top of a rising ground, and by junction of the waters of five or six other rivers is increased so as to carry boats at no more than four or five leagues from its head.

Fall of *St Anthony*.

But the most satisfactory account of it is that of M. de Charleville, a native of *Canada*, and nephew of M. de Biainville, general commandant in the colony when the *French* first settled it. This gentleman, moved by curiosity alone, undertook to trace this river to its source. For this purpose he fitted out a canoe, and set out with two of the natives for guides, some wares for traffic, provisions for the voyage, and ammunition. Thus equipped, he sailed up the *Mississippi*, three hundred leagues above the *Illinois* river, as far as the famous cataract, called the fall of *St Anthony*. This cascade

cade is formed by a flat rock, which crosses the river from side to side, and is from eight to ten feet in height. Here *Charleville* was obliged to carry his canoe and effects on shore. When he had passed the Fall, he re embarked, and continued his voyage up the river a hundred leagues higher, and arrived amongst some hunting parties of the *Sioux Indians*, inhabiting both sides of the *Mississippi*, who told him, in their manner, that from the Fall of *St Anthony*, to the source of the *Great River*, the distance was as great as from thence to the *Great Water*, meaning the *Sea*; adding further, that the countries which lay in his way thither, were quite barren, and wholly destitute of game or any one thing necessary for the support or conveniency of human life. This conjecture with respect to the remoteness of the source of the *Mississippi*, is the more probable, as several very considerable rivers discharge their waters into it far above this Fall, and because, even higher than this place, the river is found to have from thirty to thirty five fathom water, and breadth in proportion; a convincing proof of its coming from a very considerable distance. To this might be added the opinions of the natives, who all agree in this opinion, and, no doubt, have it from other *Indians* living nearest to its head.

Though this gentleman could not visit the springs of the *Mississippi*, he learnt, however, that many rivers fell into it, even above the fall of *St. Anthony*, and saw several of them himself, which, after a course of a hundred leagues, and more, discharge themselves into it on both sides. Head of Mississippi very remote.
Receives a multitude of rivers.

As little is known, besides this general account, of the rivers which run into the *Mississippi* above the Fall; we shall therefore content ourselves with giving a description of the chief of those which discharge themselves into it, from this famous cataract, downwards to the sea. The first of these, on the West, is *St Peter's River*, the banks of which are inhabited by the *Sioux*; and it enters the *Great River*, near the fall of *St Anthony*. Some leagues further, on the East, is *La Riviere de Sainte Croix*, *Holy Cross river*, coming from the neighbourhood of *Lake Superior*; near its mouth copper is said to have been found. Three leagues farther is *Isle Pelée*, or the *Bald Island*, so called from its barrenness of all sorts of trees. Lower down the river widens, forming a lake called *Lac de Bon Secours*, or *Lake of Good Help*, one league broad, and seven in circuit, surrounded with meadows. On the West side of this lake *Nicholas Perrot* built a fort, in a very pleasant meadow, which the *French* have often made the center of their commerce with the *Western* quarters, and where they have even wintered, the country all round it affording plenty of all sorts of game. St Peter's river.
St Croix river.
Pelée Isle.
Lac de Bon Secours.

On the West, 20 leagues lower, is the *Ouisconing*, and on the same side with that river begins a meadow, sixty leagues in length, and surrounded with mountains, which afford a most delightful prospect. There is such another on the left side, but not quite so extensive. By this river *Father Marquette* and the *Sieur Joliet* entered the *Mississippi*, when they made their first discovery of that river. Here dwell the *Aioux Indians*, whose country lies in 43 deg. 30 min. North latitude. They are reputed to be great travellers, and will march, as it is affirmed, from 20 to 30 leagues in one day, when free from the incumbrance of their families. These *Indians* say that at three days journey farther are the habitations of the *Omans*, a nation of a fair complexion, especially the women, and with light hair. They likewise tell us that these *Indians* are always at war with the *Panis*, and other *Western Indians*, by whom they have been informed of a great lake at a vast distance, in the neighbourhood of which live a people dressed like *Europeans*, with buttons on their cloaths, inhabiting cities, exercised in the chase of the buffalo, mounted on horses covered with the skins of those beasts, but without the use of any other arms than bows and arrows. Ouisconing river.
Aiooux Indians.
Oman Indians.

Ten leagues below the *Ouisconing* are the lead mines, formerly discovered by the *Sieur Perrot*, and still bearing his name. On the East side is the *Assenisipi*, by the *French* called *la Riviere a la Roche*, *Rock River*, so named from a mountainous rock opposite to it, which stands in the channel of the *Mississippi*, and is said to contain a quarry of rock crystal. Seven leagues lower you meet with two falls in the *Mississippi*, making so many carrying places; and eight leagues lower, on the W. side, enters the *Mingan* river, issuing from a vast and noble meadow, abounding with buffaloes and other wild game. This river is but shallow at its entry into the *Mississippi*, and besides very narrow, notwithstanding its long course of a hundred and fifty leagues from the North West. It is said to take its rise from a lake, and to form another after it has run about fifty leagues from the first. From this second lake it runs towards, *la Riviere Verte*, a branch of *St Peter's River*, and so named from the green colour of its bottom. Lead mines.
Assenisipi river.
Mingona river.

The

The banks of the *Moingona* are well stored with coal. At fifty leagues from its mouth is a large cape, or promontory, near which the waters are red, and of an offensive smell, owing, as it is said, to the large quantities of mineral ore, and, in particular, of antimony, found near this cape. At some distance from the *Moingona*, on the West, is the

Buffalo river.

Riviere au Boeufs, or *Buffalo River*; between this river and that of the *Illinois*, on the East side of the *Mississippi*, have been discovered some very good salt mines or springs.

The next considerable river running into the *Mississippi* is the *Illinois*; but, before this is described, it may not be improper to say somewhat of those other rivers which fall into it in its course.

In travelling from *Canada* to the country of the *Illinois*, by way of lake *Michigan*, there are two different routs: The first is by coasting the South shore of that lake, and then going up the *Chicagon* river five or six leagues, whence passengers get into the river *Chicagou*, a branch of the *Illinois*, after passing two carrying places, over land. The longest of these is not above a league and a quarter, but as the river sometimes in the summer has not water sufficient to carry a canoe, the other way is generally preferred. In this, leaving the fort of *St Joseph's* river, six leagues up the stream, and then landing on the southern bank, is a carrying place a league and a quarter by the water side, and afterwards a vast meadow is to be crossed, beautified with groves of wood, which render the prospect extremely pleasing. This is called *Buffalo's Head* meadow, from the head of one of those animals, of an enormous size, found in it. A league farther over the meadows is a kind of mere, or lake, which communicates with several others, the largest not above a hundred paces in circuit, which are the sources of the river *Theakiki*, from *Theak*, signifying, in some of the *Indian* tongues, a *Wolf*, because the *Mackingans*, or *Wolf Indians*, had formerly taken shelter here. The *Theakiki* is so narrow and full of turnings and windings

Chicagou river

Course of the Theakiki.

that canoes are often in danger of breaking, which makes the navigation of the *Theakiki* very tedious, so that after sailing ten or twelve leagues very little progress has been made. The banks are covered with game, and every where produce vines, which bear great quantities of very large grapes. The course becomes gradually straiter, and at fifty leagues from its source, though still very narrow, the shores on both sides show wonderfully pleasant, being covered with lofty trees, which, when they happen to fall into the water, obstruct the navigation. A little beyond this it widens into a small lake, the country is one continued meadow, to which the eye can find no bounds, where wander infinite herds of buffaloes, and nothing, in general, can surpass the richness of the prospect. The *Theakiki* loses in depth what it gains in breadth, so that travellers are often obliged to carry their canoes over land, where, without a guard, they run great risks from the *Sioux* and *Outagami Indians*, drawn hither by the mortal hatred they bear the *Illinois*. What makes this small depth of water in the *Theakiki* the more surprising, is, that it receives considerable rivers in its course, and particularly that called the river of the *Iroquois*. At the *Forks*, or the junction of the *Theakiki* with the *Illinois*, the former loses its name. The reason of which is, no doubt, that the *Illinois* river takes its name from an *Indian* nation settled on its banks.

The Forks.

Few rivers in *Europe*, the *Rhine* and the *Danube* excepted, excel the *Illinois* after this junction, and no where can there be seen a finer or richer country than that which it waters, at least as far down as *Pimitoui*. Fifteen leagues below the *Forks*, it acquires a depth proportional to its great breadth, and in this space receives the waters of several other rivers, the chief of which is called *Pislicoui*, flowing from the fine country of the *Mascoutins* towards the North. This river has at its mouth a cataract, called the *Coal-pit*, from the vast quantities of that mineral found in its neighbourhood. All this way are vast meadows, interspersed with groves and thickets, and covered with grass, so very rank, that the passenger is in danger of losing himself in it, were it not for a multitude of beaten paths made over it, by the numberless droves of buffaloes, and herds of deer which traverse it.

Illinois river.

Pislicoui river
Coal-Pit
cataract.

A league below the *Coal-pit*, on the right, is a round rock of a vast height, and its summit in form of a terrace, called, from a village of those *Indians* near it, the Fort of the *Miamis*; and about a league further, another on the left, called simply the *Rock*. This is the extremity of a rising ground, which runs winding about two hundred paces along the side of the river, grown considerably wider in this place. It is steep on all sides, and at a distance has the appearance of a fortress. Here are still to be seen the remains of the palisade of an intrenchment made formerly by the *Illinois*, and easy to be repaired in case of an irruption of enemies.

The Rock.

Fort of Mi-
amis.

Their

The *Indian* village is seated at the foot of the *Rock*, in an island, which, with several others, all wonderfully fruitful, divide the river into broad channels. The top of the mountain is a level terrafs, where ten men with arms might hold out againſt all the *Indians* of *Canada*, were it but provided with water, there being none nearer than the river, which it is impoſſible to come near, without being expoſed to an enemy.

The country here abounds with parrots, being the moſt northerly place where theſe birds are to be ſeen, and if they are ſometimes found on the banks of the *Theakiki*, it is in the ſummer only. Hence to Lake *Pimiteoui* is 12 leagues, which is only a widening of the river, is about three leagues long and one broad. At the weſtern extremity is another village of the *Illinois*, about fifteen leagues from that of the *Rock*.

From hence they reckon twenty leagues to the *Miſſiſſipi*. The firſt of theſe villages is in forty one degrees of latitude, and the entry of the *Illinois* in forty. From the *Rock* the river runs weſtward, and ſomewhat ſoutherly; there are alſo ſeveral iſlands, ſome of them conſiderably large. The banks are in ſeveral places very low, ſo that both ſides are under water in the ſpring, and afterwards covered with very long graſs. The whole courſe of it is ſaid to abound in fiſh, and in the adjacent meadows are vaſt numbers of deer and buffaloes, which latter make no difficulty of ſwimming the river, when purſued by the hunters. The next river which falls into the *Illinois* downwards is the *Saguimont*, a large river flowing from the South; and five or ſix leagues lower that of the *Macopines*, coming from the ſame quarter, but not quite ſo large, and taking its name from certain roots ſo called, which, if eaten raw, are a rank poiſon, but boiled over a gentle fire, for five or ſix days or longer, have no noxious quality. Between theſe two rivers you find the marſh called *Machoutin*, exactly in the middle, between the village of *Pimiteoui* and the *Miſſiſſipi*. Here may be diſcerned, after paſſing the river, the banks of the Great River, which are very high, and ſituated at about twenty four hours fail from this river, this delay being occaſioned by the winding of the *Illinois* river in this place, where it alters its courſe from Weſt to South by Eaſt, and thence to Eaſt South Eaſt, in which direction at laſt, after abundance of meanders, and with a ſeeming reluctance, it mixes its waters with thoſe of the *Miſſiſſipi*.

In this country, which belongs to the confederate *Indians*, and is eſteemed by the *French* geographers part of *Louiſiana*, is a *French* poſt, or ſettlement, at the village called *Tamarouas*. The country of the *Illinois* is an excellent ſoil, abounding in buffaloes and other game. And here you meet with the firſt elks to be ſeen in this part of the world. Swans, and all other ſort of water fowl, are alſo in great plenty in theſe parts. This is eſteemed the beſt of all the *French* ſettlements in *Louiſiana* for producing corn, barley, and ſuch ſort of grain. All the huſbandry required, is to ſtir the ground ſlightly before it be ſown, which will alone ſuffice to produce an excellent crop; and it has been affirmed, that in a ſcarcity of corn at *New Orleans*, which happened during the laſt war, the *Illinois* imported upwards of eight hundred thouſand weight to that capital. They alſo cultivate tobacco; but this thrives but indifferently, and ripens with great difficulty. All the plants which have been carried over from *France*, as alſo all manner of *European* fruits, ſucceed to a miracle.

The firſt *French* diſcoverers of *Louiſiana* came down by the river of the *Illinois*, in their way from *Canada* to the *Miſſiſſipi*, as all thoſe who have any buſineſs in the country of the *Illinois* only ſtill do; but ſuch as intend for the *Lower Louiſiana*, or the *Iſles*, deſcend, by the river of the *Miamis*, into the *Wabache*, and from that through the *Ohio*, into the *Miſſiſſipi*.

There are ſeveral ſilver mines in this country, particularly one called *la Mine de la Motte*, which has been aſſayed, as have alſo two others of lead, ſo plentiful in ore, that they vegetate within a foot and half of the ſurface. The country North of the *Illinois* is ſaid to have a great many mines.

Near the mouth of the *Illinois*, on the right, is a vaſt ſavannah, or meadow, which is ſaid to contain copper in great quantities. This coaſt is perfectly charming, and very different from that oppoſite to it, which is a high ridge of rocky mountains, adorned with cedars, that hide the view of the beautiful meadows behind them.

It is to be remarked further, with reſpect to the *Illinois*, ſo often mentioned, that ſome have aſſerted, what ſeems confirmed by the information of a *Miſſourite* woman, that thoſe *Indians*, as well as the *Miamis*, come originally from the borders of a ſea very far diſtant towards the Weſt, where it has been preſumed they had their firſt ſtation, and before they came down into the country they now inhabit, on the banks of

the *Moingona*; at least it is certain that one of their tribes bears a name of this importance. A *Miamis* woman, taken by the *Sioux*, told Father *Pé*, superior of the missions of *New France*, that she had been conducted by the *Sioux* to a village of her own nation, situated very near the sea. The other tribes of the *Sioux* are known under the name of the *Peouarius*, *Tamarouas*, *Cabokias*, and *Kaskaskas*; and the two villages which bear their names consist almost entirely of *Tamarouas* and *Metcbigamias*, and foreign nations, coming from the banks of a small river falling lower down into the *Mississippi*, and adopted by the *Kaskaskias*.

Advantages of
the French set-
tlement in
this country.

The colony of the *Illinois*, and the *French* post or settlement, among them has two advantages, one of which no other post of this country can dispute with it, and the other renders it necessary to all the rest of the province. The first is its commodious situation, by means of which a communication is maintained between the colonies of *Canada* and *Louisiana*, equally beneficial to both. The second is its fertility, which renders it the granary of *Louisiana*, and capable of supplying it with corn in abundance, were it even peopled to the sea.

The soil here is not only excellent for bearing wheat, but other necessaries for the support of human life. The climate is mild and temperate, being in 38 deg. 39 min. North latitude. Cattle might here be reared with the greatest ease; and even the vast herds of buffaloes tamed, and the flesh, hides, and wool of those beasts made a very valuable article in the commerce of the colony. The air is healthful, and the diseases, which are sometimes known to prevail here, may, at least in part, be owing to the indigence and libertinism of the inhabitants, and perhaps to the new breaking up and clearing of the lands; an inconvenience, which can have no long continuance. And in a colony once established, the climate can have no sort of effect upon such as are born in it, though of *European* parents. For these reasons the *French* have found means to attach the *Illinois* to their interests more than any other *Indian* nation, the *Abenakis* of *Acadia* only excepted. They are now almost all christians, that is, zealous *Roman* catholics, and are said to be of a very mild disposition.

Temperature
of the climate

The voyage down the *Mississippi* is very tedious, and the inconveniencies of it not a little heightened by the extreme cold in the winter season, even in the Southern parts. The windings of the river make this voyage a course of four hundred leagues, and tho' there are no falls or rapid currents, as in the rivers of *Canada*, it necessarily takes up much time, and passengers make even less way than on the lakes where they are not favoured by any current. The causes of the cold are much the same with those in the *English* Southern colonies.

Confluence of
the *Missouri*
with the *Mississippi*.

Five leagues below the conflux of the *Illinois* river is the mouth of the *Missouri*, by which it discharges itself on the North North West into the *Mississippi*, making, perhaps, the noblest junction of two rivers on the face of the earth. Both are nearly half a league in breadth, but the *Missouri* is much the more rapid of the two, and seems to enter the *Mississippi* with the air of a conqueror, carrying its white waters unmixed to the opposite shore, and communicating its colour to the other, which retains it all the remainder of its precipitate course to the sea.

Near this conflux is an *Illinois* village, inhabited by the tribes of that nation called *Cabokias* and *Tamarouas*, which form one very numerous canton. It stands on a small river coming from the Eastern parts, and is without water, except in the spring at the distance of half a league. The reason they give why they built their town in so incommodious a situation, is, that when they first settled here, the *Mississippi* washed the walls of their cabins, but that in three years time it had lost half a league of ground, and that they were then thinking of removing it to some other place, which, with the *Indians*, is a matter of no great difficulty.

Canse river.

It will not be improper to mention the other rivers which fall into the *Missouri*, together with the *Indian* nations inhabiting the adjacent country, and the qualities of the soil. The *Missouri* receives several other rivers in its course, particularly that of the *Canse*, which has a course of above one hundred and fifty leagues. The opening of the *Missouri* into the *Mississippi* is said to lie five hundred leagues from the sea, three hundred from the Fall of *St Anthony*, and from the mouth or opening of the *Ohio* into the same river one hundred leagues.

Marameg
river.

Five leagues below the *Missouri* is the river *Marameg*, where, after many trials, the mine company of this place discovered, in 1719, a vein of lead two foot below the surface,

surface, and running quite along a chain of mountains, with some hopes of finding silver; the event of which is yet unknown.

Among the nations inhabiting those countries are the *Osages*, a numerous people, dwelling by the banks of a river of the same name, which falls into the *Missouri* at forty leagues from its junction with the *Mississippi*, and who send regularly once or twice a year to perform the ceremony of the pipe amongst the *Kaskaskias*. And fourscore leagues from this opening is the nation of the *Missourites*, from whom the *French* have given name to this river, for want of knowing the true one. Higher up, is the nation of the *Cansez*, then the *Octatas*, by some called the *Mahtotatas*, afterwards the *Aiouez*, next to them the *Panis*, a very numerous people, divided into several cantons, bearing very different names. The *Missouri* is said to take its rise among very lofty and bare mountains, behind which is another river, probably flowing from the same, and running Westward. This account ought to be of the greater weight, as no *Indian* nation is so much addicted to travel as the *Missourites*. All the nations now mentioned inhabit the Western banks of the *Missouri*, except the *Aiouez*, who reside on the Eastern, and are neighbours and allies to the *Sioux*. Indian nations of Louisiana.

The soil through which the *Missouri* flows is said to be meadow, for the most part Soil. level, fat, and without a stone, which is the cause why its waters are always thick and muddy, whereas those of the *Mississippi*, flowing through a sandy firm soil, are perfectly transparent. The *Missouri* is said to be altogether unknown to the *French* any higher than two hundred leagues from its mouth, and most of the countries about it, and rivers which fall into it have been but imperfectly surveyed, and the country North of it is said to be wholly undiscovered.

The *French* had formerly a settlement on the Eastern point of an island some leagues long, opposite to the chief village of the *Missouri*, called *Fort Orleans*; and the Chevalier *Bourgmont*, who commanded in it, acquired the esteem and confidence of the *Indians* in the neighbourhood of that river, so as to reconcile those who had before been all of them at enmity and embroiled in wars one with another. Amongst these people, those who inhabited the Northern parts had the greatest reputation for military prowess. After the departure of this commissary the natives cut the throats of the garrison, so that not a *Frenchman* escaped. Fort Orleans.

Some authors mention, in their account of this country, several other *Indian* nations on the banks of the *Missouri*, which are, according to them, the *Missourians*, from whom the river takes its name, the *Cansez*, the *Otbouez*, the two nations of the *Panis*, white and black, the *Panimakas*, the *Aiaouez*, and the *Osages*, and, lastly, the *Padoucas*, by far the most considerable of them all, as the *Otboues*, *Osages*, and *Aiouez* are the least numerous, and the others but indifferently powerful. Other nations

The *Spaniards*, jealous of the neighbourhood of the *French*, formed a design to establish themselves on the *Missouri*, at about forty leagues from the post of the *Illinois*, on purpose to straiten the *French* boundaries on that side. In pursuit of their plan, they had determined, with the assistance of the *Osages*, to exterminate the *Missourians*, to whom the others are mortal enemies. With this intent they assembled at *Santa Fé* a body of men, with families proper for a settlement, and provided them with a Jacobin for chaplain, besides horses, cattle, and other necessaries for an infant colony, the whole under command of an engineer. The multitude set forward, but missing their way, instead of their allies the *Osages*, fell in with the *Missourians*, to whose chief the *Spanish* leader, taking him to be the head of his own friends, without farther scrutiny, addresses the harangue he intended, and probably got by heart, for the chief of the *Osages*, acquainting him with the cause of his coming, which was to establish a lasting peace with the people, and with their assistance to destroy the *Missourians*. The *Missourian* chief, dissembling his real designs, seemed to accept of the offer with great alacrity, proposing even means for the accomplishment of the design, and at the same time inviting the *Spaniards* to indulge themselves with two or three days rest, after the fatigue of their journey, before they attempted to put it into execution, adding that it would be necessary for him to consult with his warriors and seniors on the matter proposed. During this interval the *Missourians* gave their guests the most magnificent entertainment in their power, and in the night, which was to have been the eve of their departure, fell upon the camp of the *Spaniards*, and cut them all off, man, woman, and child, only sparing the Jacobin, whom, whether out of respect to his condition, or from the singularity of his habit, they saved from the general carnage, Spanish colony massacred.
amusing

amusing themselves afterwards, in good weather, with causing him to shew his dexterity in horsemanship. But the Friar one day, taking his advantage of their security, galloped off towards the *Spanish* settlements. This story comes from the *Missourians* themselves, who afterwards sold the holy instruments and habits, and other spoil amongst the *Illinois*.

*Osages and
Causjes rivers.*

Amongst the rivers which run into the *Missouri* the most known is that of the *Osages*, so called from the *Indians* of this name, inhabiting its banks, and near neighbours to the confluence of this river with the *Missouri*. But the most considerable of all is the river of the *Causjes*, which runs a course of two hundred leagues through a most pleasant country.

Hunting and
curing of the
buffalo.

Before we leave the *Missouri*, it may be proper to add somewhat relating to the manners of the *Padoucas*, the most powerful *Indian* nation dwelling on this river. Those of them who live at a distance from the *Spaniards* cultivate no sort of corn, but live by hunting, which they follow winter and summer. They have large villages composed of great cabins, capable of very numerous and almost patriarchal families. Here they make their ordinary abode, and hence you may see issuing forth at one time, a hundred hunters on horseback, with bows and arrows. About four days journey from their dwellings, they meet with large herds of buffaloes. They carry their baggage, children, and tents, on the same horses with them; a man on horseback leading the convoy, by which means men, women, and children, travel light, and without embarrassment or fatigue. After their arrival in the hunting country, they encamp near a rivulet, and always in a woody place, where they tie their horses to a long rope whilst they graze. Next day they mount each on his horse, and make to the first herd of buffaloes, and always from the windward, that the beasts may smell them, which they never fail to do, having a most exquisite scent. The hunters pursue them on the gallop till the buffaloes are so fatigued as to loll out their tongues, and fall from running to walking, when the hunters leap from their horses, and let fly their arrows, each killing his heifer, and sometimes more, for they never destroy the males. Then tying their horses to some tree, they flea the prey, take out the entrails, and cut the body in two, leaving all the rest, as the head, feet, and inwards, to the wolves and other beasts of prey. The skin is laid next the horse, and the carcass upon it, and the rest, if any, over that. Part is dressed on their arrival for immediate use, and the rest broiled, in order to be kept good for some days after. In two days the same thing is repeated, and then they bring back the meat with the bones taken out to the camp. The women and young people dry it in the smoke, whilst the men continue their hunting in the same manner as before. This meat so cured is brought lastly to the village, where they leave their horses to rest for three or four days, when some others, who had remained at home whilst their fellows were on the hunting party, take their places. This manner has given occasion, to some misinformed persons, to conclude the *Padoucas* to be a wandering nation. As this people knows nothing, or very little of husbandry, the *Spaniards*, who supply them with horses, bring them always loaded with tobacco, garden stuff, and *Indian* corn, which they barter for buffalo skins, serving them for coverlids.

Padouca Indians.

Flint hatchets
and knives.

People of
mild disposition.

The *Padouca Indians* are a very numerous people, inhabiting a country near 200 leagues in extent, their villages reaching as far as the *Spanish* settlements in *New Mexico*. They are acquainted with the value of silver, and, according to what they told the *French* on some occasion, they actually worked some mines; and, at the same time, they informed them in what manner they proceeded. Those dwelling in villages, at a distance from the *Spaniards*, have hatchets and knives made of flint; with the largest of the former they fell small trees and underwood, and with the others they flea and cut up the beasts they kill. These people are far from a savageness of disposition, and it is no difficult matter to get acquainted with them, as they have long frequented the *Spaniards*, and in the short acquaintance the *French* have had with them, they have become very familiar; and in one of their villages, composed of 140 cottages, the dwellings of about 800 warriors, 1500 women, and at least 2000 children, in which the *French* concluded a peace with several *Indian* nations of these parts, the inhabitants were desirous to have some of that nation amongst them, promising to take great care of them.

Polygamy, &c.

Polygamy seems to be in use among the *Padoucas*, and some of them have to the number of four wives. When they want horses they make use of great dogs, brought up on purpose, to transport their baggage. The men for the most part wear breeches of

of dressed skins, with stockings of the same piece; like the *Spaniards*. The women also ^{Dress.} wear boddices, to which their waistcoats, which are made of the dressed skins, are tied : Their waistcoats are adorned with a fringe of skins.

This nation is at present almost entirely destitute of *European* goods; and seems to have ^{Fearful of} but a very slight knowledge of them. The people were wholly unacquainted with fire- ^{fire-arms.} arms, till the *French* first brought some amongst them, and are extremely fearful of them, so that they will tremble and crouch on hearing a musket fired.

They commonly go to war on horseback, equipping their horses with skins prepared and hung round with pendants, to save them from the shot of arrows. In other respects their manners are entirely the same with those of the other *Indians* of *Louisiana*, in which they discover nothing barbarous, except in war, but are endowed with greater magnanimity, gratitude, and observance of their word and ministers, and are less treacherous, and simpler in their diet, than those others.

As to the soil of this country, our author, in this place, says, that from its excellent qualities that of *Louisiana*, even to its utmost boundaries, may be seen. The commerce that might be carried on by means of the fur trade, which is at the same time highly lucrative, and without hazard, is very great.

From the manners and characters of those nations this writer concludes, that those ^{Manners.} Northern *Indians* of *America* must certainly derive their origin from the country of the *Scythians*. For if we go back two or three thousand years, and look into times of re- ^{Antient Scy-} mote antiquity, we shall find a perfect similitude of customs and genius with those of the ^{thians com-} antient *Scythians*, since called *Tartars*. An antient *Greek* author, who had frequented ^{pared with} their country, and was certainly a judge in this point, tells us that the *Scythians* ac- ^{Northern A-} knowledge one supreme God, the creator of heaven and earth, to whom they offered sacrifice, and worshipped under the image of the sun. They live, says he, in perfect innocence of manners, and are very unjustly deemed barbarous, since they follow the pure dictates of nature, and know no other desires than such as are capable of being satisfied with the fruits of the earth, and with such animals as serve them for food, keeping their promises to each other inviolate, maintaining great kindness and mutual affection in their families, exercising much hospitality towards strangers, and an unbounded humanity towards all mankind, and justly preferring that happy simplicity to our politeness, or rather false refinements, and those ancient and beneficent manners, which they derive from the first mortals, to all the enjoyments of that luxury and effeminacy which have corrupted the other countries of *Asia*. Frugality with them is the parent of justice, and as they are void of covetousness, they never make war to invade the property of others, and having no need of gold and silver, they have no passion for those false riches. Nature, which is their mistress, teaches them lessons of morality, to which all the pride and arrogance of the *Greek* philosophers could never attain ; ignorance of vice performing more in them than the speculative knowledge of virtue in nations under a better polity.

To return from this beautiful lesson of morality in *Herodotus*, the father of history, to the description of *Louisiana* : The next place worthy of notice from the *Missouri* down the *Mississippi*, is the village of *Kaskaskias*, where the Jesuits have a very flourishing mission, now divided into two, since the separation of this canton into two villages. The most numerous is that next the *Mississippi*, under the direction of two Jesuits in spiritual matters. Further down is fort *Chartres*, at about a musket shot from the *Great River*, and the whole space between the fort and river is now settled with *French* families. Four leagues still further, and a league from the river, is another large *French* town, almost entirely settled with *Canadians*, with a Jesuit for curate. The second *Illinois* village is seated two leagues further up the country, and is also under the direction of a Jesuit.

The *French* here are in good circumstances ; a *Fleming*, who was a domestic to the Jesuits, shewed them how to sow wheat, which succeeds very well ; they have also ^{Manufacture} both horned cattle and poultry. The *Illinois* likewise till the ground their own way, and are ^{of buffalo's} very industrious, breeding great numbers of poultry, which they sell to the *French*. Their women too are very dextrous in spinning the wool of the buffalo, which they comb to an equal perfection with the *English* wool, and work it to such a fineness that you would be apt to take it for real silk. Of this they make stuffs, which they dye black, yellow, and of a deep red, and make robes of them, which they sew with the guts of deer, worked and spun into thread in a very simple manner. After the gut has been well cleared of the fleshy parts, they lay it in the sun for some days ; when it is dry, they

they beat it, and out of it very easily make a thread, equal in fineness, and much superior in strength, to that of *Mechlin*.

French town. The *French* town is bounded on the North by a river, the banks of which are so high that, though the water sometimes rises twenty five feet, it seldom overflows. All this country is open, consisting of immense meadows, separated only by small tufts of trees, all excellent in their kind; but the most common is the white mulberry, which, to the great detriment of the colony, the inhabitants are suffered to fell for building their houses, though they are in no want of other timber, equally fit for this use.

Dangerous sailing on the Mississippi. The river here has been known to freeze so hard as to carry waggons though it be at least a full league in breadth, and more rapid than the *Rhone*. This is very surprising, as the winter in this country is scarce perceptible, except some slight frosts, when a North or North West wind blows. The change of climate is not very quick, on account of the slow navigating here, which in a bark canoe becomes very dangerous, from the great quantities of trees falling from this and the other rivers that run into it, which are often stopt against some points of land, and thereby interrupt the course of this river.

Pirogues. Hence it is that, instead of canoes, they make use of pirogues, that is, hollowed trunks of trees, which, though not subject to these inconveniences, are, however, very heavy, and not easily managed, and some of them are so narrow as to be incapable of a sail; besides, the rowers, accustomed to paddle in canoes, are not very dexterous at that exercise. And again, if the wind ever happen, to blow high, which is generally the case in winter, the boat is always in danger of filling with water. The river of the *Kaskaskias* is very small.

Short summer. The leaves fall sooner in this country than in *Europe*, and are much later in budding than with us, not beginning to shoot till towards the latter end of *May*. The cause is by some ascribed to the number of trees which shade the ground, and intercept the rays of the sun, whence it is long before the earth acquires heat enough to cause the sap of plants to circulate, and sprout forth in buds and leaves.

Canes. Eight leagues lower, on the left, is *Cape St Anthony*. Here are seen the first canes, which are much like those that grow in *Europe*, only longer and thicker. It is asserted by some, that these canes grow only on good land; but moisture likewise is required, and such lands are more proper for rice than wheat. They are not at the trouble to grub them up when they design to clear the grounds where they grow, which would be a very difficult task, because their knotty roots are very long, and spread to a great distance. These roots have a fine natural gloss, or varnish, like the bamboos of *Japan*, of which those fine canes are made which the *Dutch* sell under the name of rattans.

Clearing and manuring a field. When therefore they intend to cultivate a field covered with these canes, they cut them close by the root, and leave them to dry; when dried, they set fire to them, and the ashes serve for manure, and the fire opens the pores of the earth, which is first slightly broken, and then sown with any kind of seed they think proper, such as rice, maiz, water-melons, and, in general, all sorts of grain or pulse, except wheat, which in those fat lands run, all to stalk and leaves, producing no seed at all. This defect might easily be remedied by spreading the ground with a good quantity of sand, and sowing maiz on it for the first two or three years.

Woods occasion blights. As for high grounds, and such as are not exposed to the inundations of the river, they are in a condition to bear corn; and if the first attempts made to cultivate wheat have failed by blights, it must be ascribed to the neglect of clearing the country of the woods, whence the air could not have free access to disperse the fogs which engender those blights. In proof of this may be shewn the country of the *Illinois*, in which being generally meadow land, the wheat sprouts and ripens as well as in any part of *Europe*.

Ohio river. Seven leagues further, after very dangerous sailing, on account of the *Cherokees*, *Outagamis*, *Sioux*, and *Chicachas*, which infest it, who are enemies to the *French*, and have never made any peace with that nation, is the fine river *Ohio*, which may be navigated as far as the country of the *Iroquois*, when the waters are high. This river at its entry into the *Mississippi*, is at least a quarter of a league broad; and no place can possibly be more proper for a settlement than where these rivers meet. A fort here, *Charlevoix* says, would effectually bridle the *Cherokees*, at present the most populous nation in all this continent.

Six leagues from the *Ohio*, on the East, is a very high coast, which is of a yellow earth, and said to contain iron mines. It is infested with a kind of wild cats, called *Pigous*, very like ours in *Europe*, but larger. They are remarked to have some of them shorter, and others much longer and thicker tails. They are also of a very fierce appearance, and are said to be very carnivorous, and excellent hunters. The forests are full of walnut-trees, such as those in *Canada*, the roots of which have several properties peculiar to those of this country. They are very tender, and the bark of them is used for dying black; but their principal virtues are medicinal, as they are good for stopping a flux, and an excellent emetic. Iron mines.
Wild cats.
Medicinal
walnut-trees.

It is to be remarked of the *Mississippi*, that the farther it runs the more winding it grows, and, what is singular enough, the wind follows the direction of all those windings. They reckon fourscore leagues from the narrow river of the *Chicachas*, on the East side, to the *Kaskaskias*, though by land the distance is not above one half. The river is divided, from space to space, by a number of islands, some of considerable bigness, into many beautiful channels, where the greatest ships may pass; and it is affirmed that they find 60 fathom water, at a hundred and fifty leagues from the sea. Mississippi
winding and
very deep.

The river *Margot* runs into the *Mississippi* on the East. A *French* general commandant, having landed in this river, in his expedition against the *Chicasaws*, built a fort on it called *Assumption* Fort; but it was razed next year, when a peace with those *Indians* was concluded. Assumption
Fort.

On the West side the river *St Francis* enters the *Mississippi*; here the *French*, when at war with the *Natchez*, built a fort to serve for a storehouse to their troops, which were marching against those *Indians*. French Fort.

As to the forests of *Louisiana*, with which this vast province is almost entirely covered, there is nothing in nature comparable to them, whether we regard the bulk and height of the trees, the variety of kinds, or the uses which may be made of them. For, excepting the dying woods, which grow only in hotter climates, and between the tropics, we cannot mention any species of timber which this country does not produce. There are woods of cypress from eight to ten leagues in extent; and the height and bulk of this species are always in a due proportion, and both exceed the dimensions of the largest timber in *Europe*. Noble forests
of Louisiana.

It is not long since the *Europeans* observed an evergreen laurel, called the *Tulip-tree*, from the figure of its flower. This plant rises to a greater height than our *Indian* chestnut, and is adorned with more beautiful flowers. The *Copalm-tree* is higher and thicker than the tulip-tree, and distils a balsam, very little inferior to the *Peruvian*. All the known species of walnut-trees, and all sorts of trees proper for carpentry, or joiner's work, abound every where. But great caution is to be used in the choice of timber, not to chuse such as grows on the banks of rivers, nor in any place subject to the inundations of the *Mississippi*, such timber being not only too heavy, but, from having its roots always in the water, is very subject to rot, and decays presently. Tulip-tree:
Plenty of
timber.

The next place is the first village of the *Akanfas*, built in a small meadow on the Western banks of the *Mississippi*. There are three more within the space of eight leagues, each inhabited by a particular tribe or canton. There is a village which contains two tribes, but however disposed, they all go by the general name of *Akanfas*. One of these tribes is particularly distinguished under the denomination of *Ouyapes*, or *Wiapes*. The *French West India* company had some time ago a warehouse here, with a clerk, who passed his time in a dismal solitude. Villages of
Akanfas.
French ware-
house.

The river of the *Akanfas*, which, as is pretended, comes from a very great distance, and at 120 leagues from its mouth is said to precipitate itself from a high chain of mountains, making a fall eighty feet high, which *M. Dumont* advises as a proper and convenient place from which to set out in order to discover the Western ocean, which he says is but 120 leagues distant, discharges itself into the *Mississippi* by two channels, four leagues from each other. This river takes its rise, as is said, in the country of the *Panis*, probably the same with those called *Panis ricaras*. The navigation of the *Akanfas* is very difficult, because of its frequent falls, and rapid currents, its small depth of water, and great number of carrying-places. Akanfas river

The *Fork* of the two branches is seven leagues distance from the second opening, and but two from the first. This is the river to which *M. de la Harpe* was sent to make the discovery of a rock of emeralds. It receives the waters of a beautiful stream coming from the country of the *Osages*, called *La Riviere Blanche*, or *White River*. White River.

Indiannations Two leagues higher are the *Torimas* and *Topingas*, making between both but one village. Two leagues above this are the *Sotbouis*, and a little further still the *Koppas*, a nation very numerous in the time of *Ferdinand Soto*, and even so late as when *M. de la Salle* was here. Opposite to their village may be seen the sad remains of *Law's* Grant which fell to the share of the company. One hundred and twenty leagues from the *French* post is a navigable river which the *French* have sailed up, and where the *Sieur de Villemont*, who came hither by the way of the *Black River* of the *Akanfas*, had a grant.

Law's grant. To these parts nine thousand *Germans*, raised in the *Palatinate*, were designed to be sent; but, to the great prejudice of the colony, these industrious peasants never did arrive. There is, perhaps, no country in all *Louisiana*, next to that of the *Illinois*, more proper for raising all sorts of corn as well as for rearing of cattle.

Colony dis-appointed of Palatines. In 1721 the village of the *Wyapes* was fallen to utter decay. Some time before a *Frenchman* passing this way was seized with the small-pox, which soon infected the strongest natives, and spread itself through the whole canton. The burying ground had the appearance of a forest of poles and posts newly erected, according to the *Indian* manner, and hung with all manner of trinkets. This is also reckoned the proper place whence to set out in search of the place marked in *De l'Isles* maps, as being situated on the Western ocean.

Defoliation by the small pox. The *Akanfas* pass for the tallest and handsomest of all the *Indians* of *America*, and are therefore called by way of distinction the *Handsome Men*. For this reason they are thought to have the same original with the *Canjes* on the *Missouri*, and the *Pow-tewatamis* of *Canada*. The first branch of the river *Akanfas* seems not above five hundred paces in breadth, and the second is much narrower.

Akanfas handsome. *Pointe Coupée* is a high promontory, advancing into the river from the West. It has been cut by the river, whence it has obtained this name, and so is become an island; but the new channel is not as yet navigable, except when the water is much swelled. The distance from hence to the greater branch of the *Akanfas* is computed at two and twenty leagues, though the direct course be scarce above ten; for the *Mississippi* turns and winds, in an extraordinary manner, between the village of the *Wyapes* and the river of the *Yazou Indians*, which is 70 leagues distance.

Yazou river. The entry of the *Yazous* river lies North West and South East, and is about 200 feet in breadth. Its waters are red, and, as some pretend, give the bloody flux; and the air in the neighbourhood is very unwholesome. Three leagues hence is the *French* fort, which was some time since intended to have been transported from this place to a more healthy situation, in a fine meadow, close by a village inhabited by a medley of *Yazous*, *Couroas*, and *Ofogoula Indians*, who together may be able to muster about two hundred warriors. The *French* are, however, very distrustful of those *Indians*, on account of their connections with the *English*. Six leagues from its mouth, is the Grant of *M. le Blanc*, who had a fort and garrison here, destroyed by the *Indians* in 1730. A league from this place is an *Indian* village, and near it an hill, on which are to be seen the remains of an *English* fort. This river is navigable 45 leagues above its mouth, after which it divides into two branches, and abounds with

Indian Villages.

Crocodiles. crocodiles, from twelve to fifteen feet long. They are never heard to cry but in the night, and their bellowing so exactly resembles that of a bull, as to be easily mistaken for it. The *French*, however, bathe here with as much security as in the *Seine* at *Paris*; and though those animals never fail to surround them all the time they continue in the water, they are, however, not in the least apprehensive of them, as the crocodiles never attempt to molest them while they are in the river, only watching the moment they come out of it to surprise them. The way to save themselves, in this case, is to beat the water with a stick, which they never omit to carry with them, and by this means are in perfect security.

The company have what they call a warehouse *d'Attente* [that is, an occasional one] in this settlement, as well as in that on the *Akanfas*; but the fort and ground on which it stands belonged to a society of *French* gentlemen. It is not easy to guess what made them chuse the river of the *Yazous* for their Grant, when they had it in their power to fix on a spot of better land, as well as a more proper situation. What probably determined their choice, was the importance of commanding this river, which rises in the *English* colony of *Carolina*, for keeping a bridle on the *Yazous*, who are allies of the *Cherokees*, an *Indian* nation under the protection of the crown of *Great Britain*.

French important settle-ment.

Below

Below the *Yazous* is a gulf, or whirl-pool, so dangerous that Father *Charlevoix* ^{Whirlpool.} tells us that, had it not been for a *Natché Indian*, the only person with him who knew any thing of it, he had been certainly lost in it. For, before you can perceive it, you are so far engaged as to be under an utter impossibility of extricating yourself. This dangerous gulf lies under a high cape on the left, containing, as they say, good quarries of stone which, in general, is scarce enough in *Louisiana*; but that defect is ^{Quarries.} amply supplied by the great conveniency for making brick.

The next country is that of the *Natché Indians*, the most beautiful, fruitful, and ^{Natché In-} populous of all *Louisiana*, forty leagues distant from the *Yazous*, and situated on the ^{dians.} same side of the river. The landing-place is opposite to a high and steep cliff, at the foot of which runs a stream navigable for pirogues and shallops. After this first height is a second tolerably easy, and on its top, a sort of redoubt inclosed within palisades, ^{Redoubt.} which, in this country, is called a fort.

M. de *Iberville*, the first *Frenchman* who entered the *Mississippi* by the sea, sailed up as high ^{Fine country} as the country of the *Natchez*, and found it so delightful, and advantageously situated, that he concluded it the fittest place that could be found for erecting a metropolis of the whole colony. Wherefore he drew the plan of a city, to which he gave the name of *Rosalie*, after the lady of the chancellor *Pont Chartrain*. This project, how- ^{Rosalie name} ever, appears not to have been carried into execution, though the name of this city is re- ^{for a metro-} tained in most maps, and particularly by *D'Anville* is called *Fort Rosalie*. ^{polis.}

Father *Charlevoix*, though of opinion that the chief emporium in the first times, of the colony, at least, would be more properly seated nearer the sea, yet thinks that in case the colony which he believes likely enough to thrive, should ever arrive at any high degree of wealth and populousness, this place would be as fit a spot as any to support a ^{Seat for a} capital. It is not subject to be overflowed by the river, the air is pure and wholesome, the country extensive, fruitful in all sorts of grain, pulse, and herbage, and, what is of vast advantage, extremely well watered. Besides, it is at no such immense distance from the sea, but that ships may easily sail up to it. And lastly, it is within a proper distance of all those places on which the *French* propose to settle, which he seems to think a principal point. The *French* had here, in 1721, a warehouse, with a chief fac- ^{French facto-} tor, who had no great business on his hands. ^{ry.}

Amongst the many Grants in this territory, which, at the time now mentioned, were ^{French grants} already in a good way, we find two of a large extent, consisting of a square of four ^{and plantati-} leagues. One of these belongs to the people of *St Maloes*, and the other to the company, who have sent labourers hither from *Clerac* to plant tobacco. These two Grants are situated so as to form, with the fort, an equilateral triangle the sides of which are a league in length; half way between the angles is the great village of the *Natchez*. The granted lands are both watered by a fine river, which discharges itself at two leagues distance into the Great River; and a noble wood of cypress-trees serves for a screen to the company's plantation. The cultivation of tobacco succeeded perfectly well, though most of the workmen of *Clerac* are long since returned to *France*. The cultivation of indigo and cotton was undertaken much about the same time.

The great village of the *Natchez* has been long since reduced to a very small number of cabins; and the reason given for it is, that the great chief has a right to seize at pleasure all the effects of his subjects, who, to avoid his rapine, take the first opportunity to desert him; the revolvers forming several hamlets, or cantons, at some distance from the great village, which, as it is besides the residence of the court, is respected as the capital of the nation. The *Sioux Indians*, allies to the *Natchez* and *French*, are also settled in a canton in the neighbourhood. ^{Indian capital} ^{and cantons.}

Four leagues from the *Natchez* is a small river, where the *Mississippi* makes a circular sweep of fourteen leagues. Forty leagues farther down is another river, where the boats lie to in the night, and where the noise of the multitudes of fish that gambol in the river is prodigious. Two leagues farther is the river of the *Tunicas*, which, though but a rill at its mouth, at the distance of a musket shot up the country forms a considerable lake. The river of the *Tunicas* is represented by *D'Anville* as crossing a neck ^{River of Tu-} of land, and, by joining with the *Mississippi*, shortens the passage of that river 10 leagues. ^{nica.}

The village of the *Tunicas* stands on the other side of the lake, on a considerable eminence; the air is said to be but indifferently wholesome, which is ascribed to the quality ^{Village of} of the water, or, perhaps with more justice, to the stagnation and putrefaction of the waters ^{Tunicas.}

of the lake. The village itself is of a round form, with a large square in the middle, without walls, and but indifferently peopled. The chief's cabin is highly ornamented on the outside for the residence of an *Indian*: There are figures in relief graven upon it, and of more tolerable workmanship than one would naturally expect in such a place. The inside is, however, but ill lighted, and without any of those coffers which, as some travellers tell us, were filled with stuffs and silver. The chief appears in a *French* or *European* dress, with an air perfectly free and unaffected. The *French* officers in *Louisiana* place their chief trust and confidence in this personage, who is much attached to that nation, which, on the other hand, strives to repay his good services with interest; a just piece of policy, and worthy the imitation of all who would do their country any service amongst the natives of *America*. He trafficks also with that people, furnishing them with horses and poultry, and is said to have good notions of trade. He has also learnt of the *Europeans* to hoard up money, and passes for a man of substance in that part of the world. The other cabins of this village are partly of a square form, like that of their chief, and partly round, in imitation of those of the *Natchez*: The square on which they are all built is about an hundred paces diameter. Two other villages of the same nation, at a small distance from this, are all the remains of a nation once very numerous. The *Tunicas*

Residence,
dress, and
character of
the chief.

Fruitless zeal
of a mission-
ary.

A carrying-
place.

Red and
black rivers.

had formerly a missionary amongst them, of whom they were extremely fond; but drove him out after some time, for burning their temple, which, however, they have been at no pains to rebuild, nor have they rekindled their sacred fire; whence we may judge of their zeal for their own, or indeed for any religion. Some time afterwards they recalled their missionary from his exile; but their native indolence got so much the ascendant over all his preaching, that he was obliged to abandon them in his turn.

At the bottom of the lake of the *Tunicas*, is a carrying-place of about two leagues, that saves ten leagues of the way by the Great River. Two leagues from the river of the *Tunicas* is the *Rio Colorado*, or the *Red River*, formerly called *la Riviere de Mârne*, the *Oumas*, and *la Riviere Sabloniere*, as also the *River* of the *Natchitoches*, after the *Indians* inhabiting its banks; but it retains only the name of *Red River* from the colour of its sands: The *French* built a fort here in 1745, 36 leagues from the *Mississippi*. The *Indians* say that this river runs from a lake, on which they never fail on account of the great swelling of its waves. From the same lake proceeds the river *Noire*, or *Black River*, which, after a course of 120 leagues, discharges itself into the *Red River*. It was hither the *Natchez Indians* retired in 1730, after having destroyed all the *French* in their country.

The *Red river* is only navigable for canoes, or pirogues, for forty leagues, afterwards it is nothing but unpassable morasses. Its opening appears to be about two hundred paces broad. Ten leagues above its mouth it receives on the West *la Riviere Noire*, or the *Black River*, otherwise called the *River* of the *Ouatchitas*. This flows from the North, and is quite dry for seven months of the year. Though here are several grants, yet not one of them appears in a fair way of thriving, since their only motive was the neighbourhood of the *Spaniards*, at all times a fatal bait to the *French* of *Louisiana*; for, in hopes of carrying on a trade with that nation, the best lands are uncleared and uncultivated. The *Natchitoches* are settled on the *Red River*, and the *French* have thought fit to build a fort in their country, to prevent the *Spaniards* from settling in the neighbourhood of the colony.

Twelve leagues below the mouth of the *Red River* is a second *Pointe Coupée*, or *New-Cut Island*; the Great River makes a large winding in this place. Some *Canadians*, by opening a small gut that lay behind a point, let in the waters of the *Mississippi*, which pouring through it with great impetuosity finished the canal about thirty feet fathom deep, by which travellers save fourteen leagues. The bed of the river is now become quite dry, except in time of an inundation; a manifest proof that the *Mississippi* presses towards the Eastern side in this place; a particular to be carefully remarked by such as intend to settle on the banks of that river.

To the North of this cut, and on the same side, is another grant, or settlement, called *La Concession de Ste Reyne*, in a very unthriving condition; and a league South is another, exposed to the same danger with the preceding. The soil on which this last stands is excellent, but the building, of necessity, erected at a quarter of a league distance from the river side, behind a cypress wood, the bottom of which is swampy, though capable of producing rice and garden-stuff. Two leagues within the wood is a lake two leagues

French grants
and hopes.

Fort.

New-cut
island.

Remark on
the *Mississippi*.

French set-
tlements.

leagues in circuit, abounding with wild fowl, and its waters might be made productive Lake. of plenty of fish, by destroying the crocodiles which swarm in it.

The male cypress bears a sort of berry, or knob, which, if gathered green, affords a Medicinal balsam, which is a sovereign cure for cuts. That which distils from the copalma, be- balsams and sides its other virtues, is also said to cure the dropsy. The root of the great cotton- roots. tree, formerly mentioned, and which is to be found the whole way from Lake Onta- rio, is an assured remedy for burns and scalds of all sorts. They take the inner pellicle, or bark, and boil it in water, then bath the wound with this water, and af- terwards strew on it the ashes of the same pellicle burnt for that purpose.

Three leagues farther is the well situated grant of M. *Diron d'Artaguet*, where are Huge tortoi- ses. of a monstrous size, and so very strong that they are said to break a thick bar of iron with their paws. This spot is called the grant of the *Baton Rouge*, or *Red Staff*. Grant of the Twelve leagues below are the *Bayagoula Indians*, the ruins of whose village Red Staff. are still to be seen. About fifty years ago it was very populous, when part of the in- Bayagoubas. habitants were carried off by the small-pox, and the rest scattered and dispersed by their fears, and have never been heard of since, so that it is much doubted whether there be a single family of them now in being. The settlers here have long applied them- selves to the cultivation of silk, and for that purpose have planted great numbers of mulberry trees. They have also cultivated tobacco and indigo, which have long thri- Culture. ved wonderfully.

The next place is the little village of the *Oumas*, situated on the East side of the river, and containing some *French* houses; the great village stands a quarter of a league higher up the country. This nation is allied, and zealously affected to the *French*. *Oumas and Stimachas In-* Two leagues above this the *Mississipi* divides into two streams, making what is called dians. a *Fork* in this country, by working and hollowing out to itself on the right, upon Fork. which it continually presses in these parts, a channel called the *Fork of the Chetimachás*, or *Stimachás*, which, before it pours its waters into the sea, forms a lake of moderate extent. The *Chetimacha Indians* are now almost entirely destroyed, those who remain of them serving as slaves in the *French* colony.

Six leagues below the *Oumas* is the grant of the Marquis *d'Ansenis*, most delight- fully situated, but since reduced to nothing by fire and some other fatal accidents. The *Colapissas* had formed a small village in this place, which subsisted no long time. Be- Great village low is the great village of that nation, much the pleasantest and finest of all *Louisia-* of the *Cola-* *na*, though it musters only two hundred warriors, but all of them of undaunted bra- pissas. very. Their cabins are in form of a pavilion, like those of the *Sioux*, and they very seldom use any fire in them. They have double hangings, that on the inside consist- ing of a texture of the leaves of the *latanier*, and the outer composed of matts. The chief's cabin is thirty six feet in diameter, one of the greatest any where to be seen, that of the sun among the *Natchez* having only thirty. Five leagues further is seated the grant called the *Burnt Canes*, between which and the *Colapissas* the ground on which Burnt canes formerly resided the *Taensas* nation, which, in M. *de la Salle's* time, made a great fi- and *Chopitoulas* settle- gure in this country, but has sometime since entirely disappeared. Next in course is ments. the place called the *Chopitoulas*, two leagues from *New Orleans*, which, as well as some neighbouring habitations, are in a very prosperous way. The land is fertile, and, and what is more, has fallen into the hands of very industrious persons.

Ten leagues before the stream reaches *New Orleans* is the settlement of the *Germans*, who, after the disgrace of Mr *Law*, abandoned his plantation at *Arkansas*, and obtained leave of the council to settle in this country. Here, by means of their application and industry, they have got extremely well cultivated plantations, and are the purveyors of the capital, whither they bring, weekly, cabbages, sallads, fruits, Industry of the *German* greens, and pulse of all sorts, as well as vast quantities of wild-fowl, salt pork, and settlers. many excellent sorts of fish. They load their vessels on the *Friday* evening, towards sun- set, and then placing themselves two together in a pirogue, to be carried down by the current of the river, without ever using their oars, arrive early on *Saturday* morning at *New Orleans*, where they hold their market, whilst the morning lasts, along the banks of the river, selling their commodities for ready money. After this is done, and when they have provided themselves with what necessities they want, they embark again on their return, rowing their pirogues up the river against the stream, and reach their plantations in the evening with provisions, or the money arising from the produce of their labours.

New

New Orleans
capital of
Louisiana.

New Orleans, the famous metropolis of *Louisiana*, is the first city which this king of rivers, the *Mississippi*, ever beheld upon its banks. The accounts given of the eight hundred fine houses, in five parishes, before the year 1722, appear much exaggerated, this place consisting then of about a hundred sorry barracks, disposed with no great regularity, a great wooden warehouse, and two or three houses, which would be esteemed common and ordinary buildings in an *European* village. There is, however, reason to believe that *New Orleans* may in after times become a great and opulent city, if we consider the advantages of its situation, thirty leagues from the sea, which, according to some authors, requires no more than a course of twenty four hours, on a noble river, in a most fertile country, under a most delightful and wholesome climate, inhabited by people extremely industrious, within fifteen days sail of *Mexico* by sea, and still nearer the *English*, *French*, and *Spanish* islands in the *West Indies*; all which are much more than sufficient to ensure the future wealth, power, and prosperity of this city.

As the face of this metropolis has been much changed since the time in which the preceding description was made, it has been thought proper to subjoin the following from much later memoirs.

New Orleans
in its more
modern state.

At first *New Orleans* consisted of a few inconsiderable houses, scattered up and down, without any order or regularity, which had been built by some travellers, come from the country of the *Illinois*. When a resolution therefore was taken by the commandant in *Louisiana* in 1720, to build a capital, M. de la Tour an engineer was sent, who made choice of this as a proper place, and began with clearing the adjacent lands of the woods, and afterwards, traced the streets and quarters which were to compose the new city, advertising the inhabitants that, upon presenting a petition to the council, proper spaces should be allotted them for building. Each lot was ten fathoms in front, by twenty in depth; and, as each quarter contained a square of fifty fathoms, should contain twelve lots, whereof the two in the center should have ten fathoms, in front, by twenty five in depth. It was ordered that such as should obtain lots, should be obliged to inclose them within palisades, leaving quite round a void space of three feet in breadth at least, below which should be dug a ditch for draining off the waters in the season of the river's inundation. Besides these lesser drains, or defences, against the overflowings of the *Mississippi*, a dike, or bank, of earth, 16 leagues in length, was raised on both sides the river, from *Englishman's creek* to 10 leagues above the city, and behind that a ditch in the same manner. The buildings were at first only of wood, being properly so many cabins; but since brickworks have been erected, they are all of those materials, so that the governor's house, the church, the barracks, and almost all the houses are of brick, or half brick and half wood.

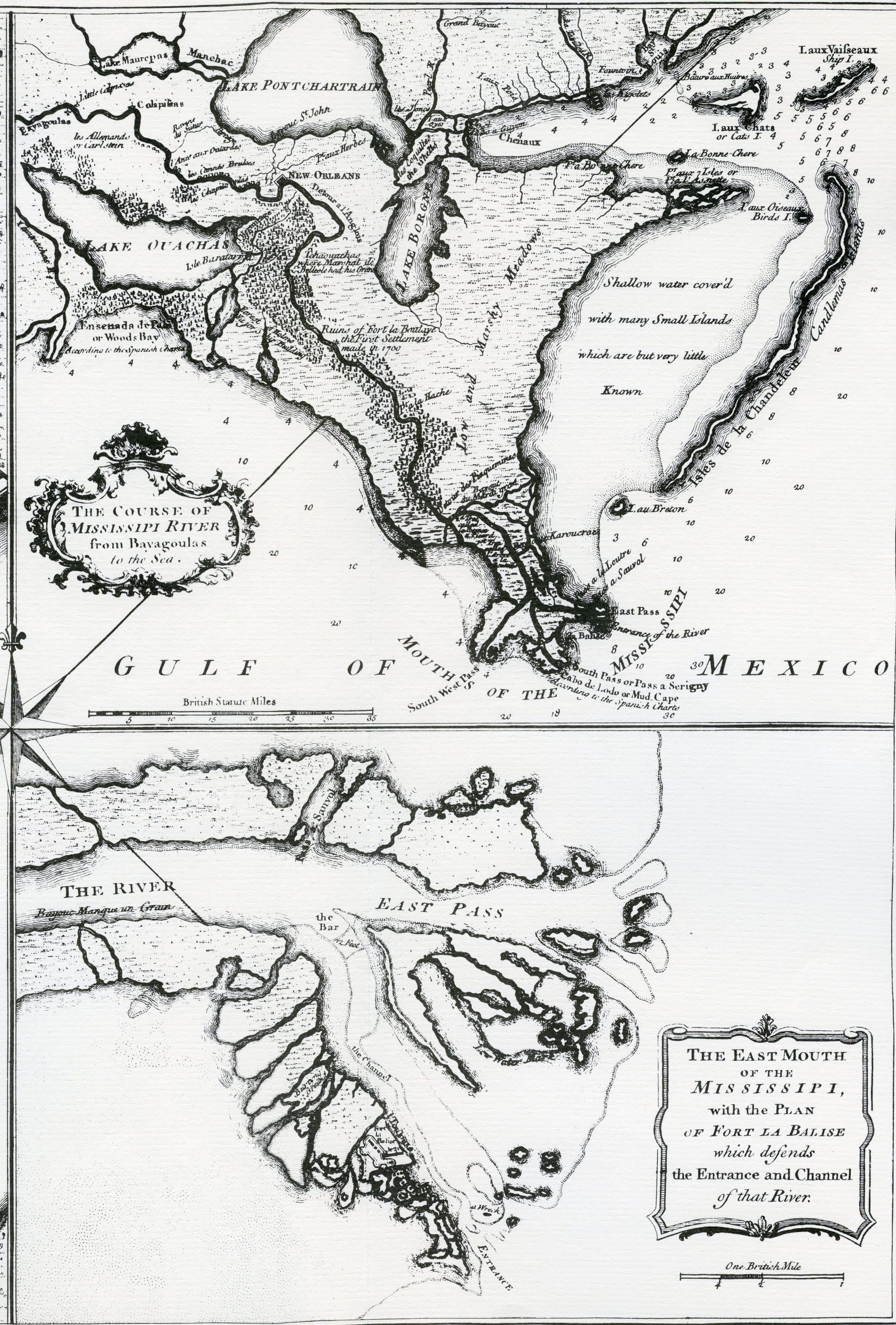
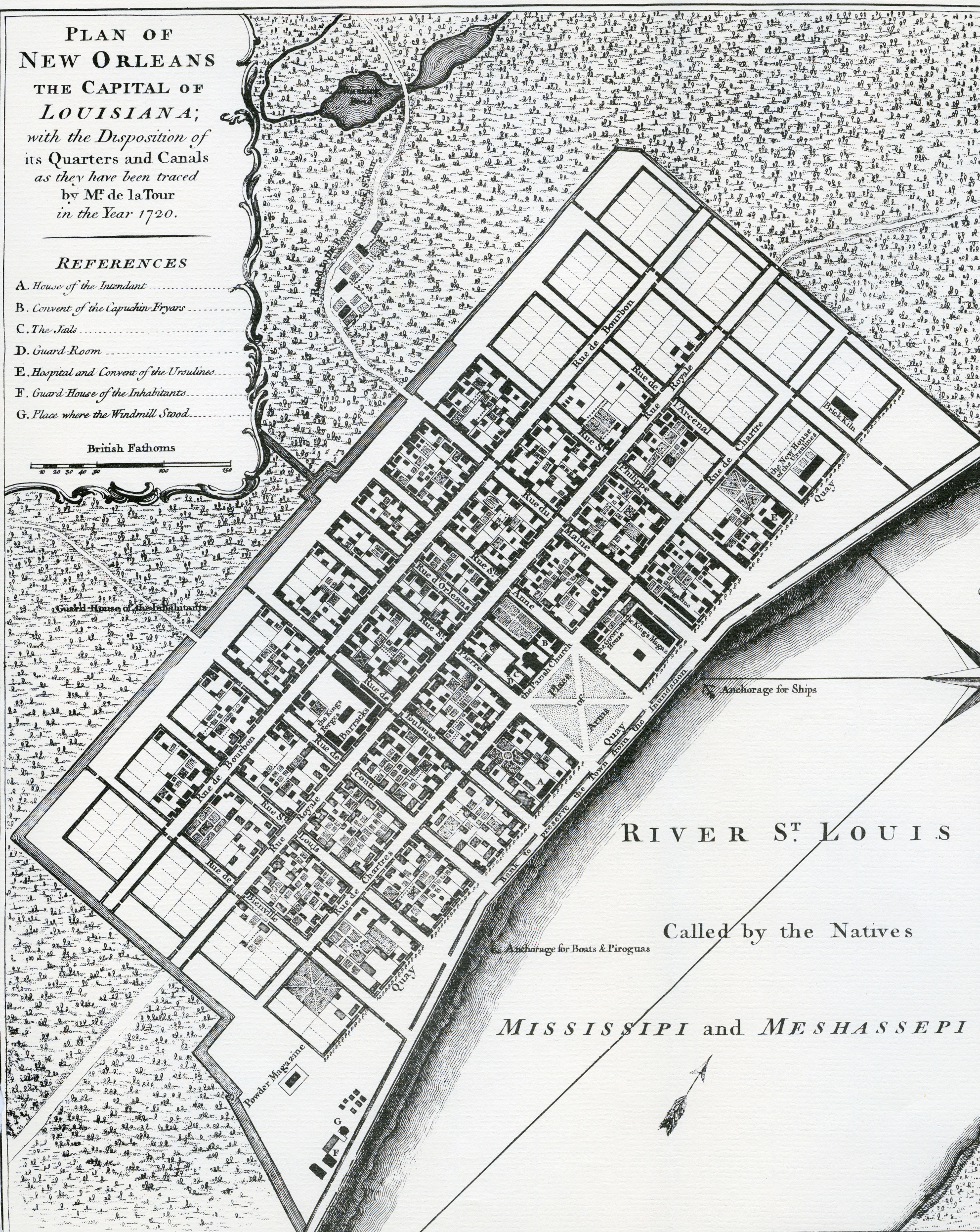
Its situation
and more re-
markable
edifices.

New Orleans stands on the East bank of the *Mississippi*, in 29 deg. 57 min. North latitude; and is said to be placed in a situation much inferior to many others which might have been chosen, on account of its vicinity to the *Mobile*, the chief settlement of the colony in its beginnings. Vessels of a thousand tons may ride here with their sides close to the banks at low water. It is only a league hence to the Creek of *St John*, where persons passing through the Lake of *St Louis* embark for the *Mobile*. The place of arms is an open square towards the river, in the bottom of which stands the parochial church, dedicated to *St Louis*, and served by the Capuchins. On the left of the church is the house of those monks; on the right is the prison and guard-room; and the two sides of the square are taken up with barracks for the troops. All the streets are strait, and cross each other at right angles, dividing the city into forty three islands, eleven in length along the river side, and four in depth. The intendant's house is behind the barracks, that of the governor's stands adjacent to the place of arms. The new convent of the *Ursuline* Nuns is at the extremity of the city towards the right, at the corner of *Rue de Chartres*, next the place of arms.

In this city is the council, held commonly on *Thursdays* and *Fridays*. It is composed of six counsellors, a procurator or attorney for the king, and an intendant, who acts also in quality of commissary, ordonnateur, or director of the works; there are besides a register and secretary to the council. Causes are tried here without advocates, or attorneys, and therefore without any charge, every man being his own council and solicitor.

The market stands on the bank on the left, and a little above the intendant's, and
opposite

A. *House of the Incendant*
 B. *Convent of the Capuchin-Friars*
 C. *The Jail*
 D. *Guard-Room*
 E. *Hospital and Convent of the Ursulines*
 F. *Guard-House of the Inhabitants*
 G. *Place where the Windmill Stood*



opposite to that side of the square or place of arms, where the magazines are, is the anchoring place, where the ships lie with their sides close to the bank. The powder magazine is at some distance from the city, for fear of accidents. In a word, nothing is wanting to this capital, excepting fortifications. In other respects, there are a number of fine brick buildings, and many houses from four to five stories.

The banks of the river, for sixteen leagues on both sides, are covered with plantations not far from each other, each inhabitant raising a dike to secure his own dwelling from the inundation, which happens, as in *Egypt*, regularly every year in the spring, when such ships as happen to be at *New Orleans* take care to set sail, for fear of being prevented by the vast quantity of trees that the river carries along with it, which would break the strongest cables.

New Orleans, in 1720, made a very contemptible figure, being only, as *Charlevoix* tells us, an encampment of two hundred people on the banks of a great river, sent to build a city, and thinking of nothing farther than barely how to screen themselves from the inclemency of the weather, till a plan should be settled, by which they would be regulated in building their houses. State of *New Orleans* in 1722.

There is nothing very remarkable in the neighbourhood of *New Orleans*: With respect to the advantages or disadvantages of the situation of that capital, opinions are divided. They who maintain the former, alledge the conveniency of its communication with the sea, by means of a small river, some time since discovered, about a league from the place towards the North East, called *le Bayouc de St Jean*, or *St John's creek*. This way, say they, a very safe trade may be easily carried on between the metropolis and the *Mobile*, *Biloxi*, and the other *French* ports situated along the sea. They moreover observe that the river makes a great circuit below the city, called the *Englishman's creek*, which, by retarding the progress of vessels in their way to *New Orleans*, secures it effectually from being surprised by an enemy. Advantageous situation of *New Orleans*.

The gentlemen, who are of another opinion, alledge that these reasons are rather specious than solid. For, in the first place, say they, those who argue in this manner admit that the river is only capable of small vessels. Now on this supposition, they ask, what need has the capital, if ever so little fortified, need to fear a surprise, since it is thus granted that it can be attacked only with small craft, utterly incapable of heavy ordnance? However, say the same opponents, let the city be placed where it will, the mouth of the river is, at all events, to be secured with a fort and good batteries, which would, at least, serve to give timely notice to the capital to prepare for the reception of the enemy. Secondly, they ask where lie the great advantages of a communication which can only be kept open by means of shallops, and with ports which, in case of an attack, could not be defended, and whence but feeble assistance, of no manner of utility, could be drawn in return. To these objections they add, that when a vessel is going up through *Englishman's creek*, it stands in need of a change of wind almost every minute, which is enough to detain it whole weeks in a passage of no more than seven or eight leagues. Objections.

A little below *New Orleans* the land begins to be very low, on both sides the river, crosses the country, and gradually declines as it approaches nearer the sea. This point of land is, to all appearance, of no long date; for upon digging ever so little below the surface, you come to the water. Besides, the number of beaches, or breakers, and islets formed within the last half century at all the several mouths of the river, leaves no room to doubt that this peninsula has been entirely formed in the same manner. And it is very certain that when *M. de la Salle* sailed down the *Mississippi* to the sea, the opening of that river was very different from what it is at present. Peninsula formed by the *Mississippi*.

The nearer you approach to the sea, the truth of what is here said becomes more visible. The bars which cross the most part of those small channels, which the river has opened for itself, have been multiplied only by means of the trees carried down by the current, one of which, stopped by its roots or branches, in places of shallow water, will retain a thousand more in the same place. *Charlevoix* says he has seen gatherings of trees, formed in this manner, two hundred leagues from this capital, one of which, alone, would have filled all the timber and fuel yards in *Paris*. As no human force is, in this case, able to remove them, the mud carried down by the river serves to bind and cement them together, till, by degrees, it entirely covers them. Every inundation leaves a new layer, or bed, and, after ten years time, canes Islands formed by aggregates of trees.

and shrubs begin to grow a-top of them, thus forming points and islands, which frequently oblige the river to shift its bed, and take a new course.

Land un-
granted.

Between *New Orleans* and the sea you find no grants, on account of the small breadth of land ; so that all you see in this route is only a few private habitations, with public warehouses for supplying the large grants with necessaries.

Charwachas
Indians.

Behind one of these habitations, and immediately below the *Englisman's creek*, were formerly settled the *Charwachas*, the ruins of whose village are still to be seen. The chief's cabin was not unlike the cottage of some *French* peasant, excepting only that it had no windows. It was built of branches of trees, the void places between which were filled with the leaves of the *latanier*. The roof was constructed in the same manner ; this chief is absolute, like all those of *Florida* ; he hunts only for his pleasure, his subjects being obliged to supply him with game out of what they take for themselves. The village now stands on the other side of the river, and a league lower down, whither the *Indians* have transported even the very bones of their dead.

Passes of the
Mississipi.

A little below their new abode the coast is much higher than any where else this way ; and here, according to *Charlevoix's* opinion, is the best place for building the capital, which would then be but twenty leagues from the sea ; so, that with a moderate breeze of wind at South East, a ship might easily reach it in fifteen hours. Lower is an other winding of the river, called *le detour aux Piakimines*, or *Piakimine tree Creek*. Soon after great care must be taken in navigating amidst the Channels of the *Mississipi*, for fear of falling into a wrong channel, in which case it is past all possibility of ever extricating the vessel. These channels, for the most part, are but small streams, some of which are only separated by means of the bottom, which rises in ridges above the surface of the water, occasioned by the choaking up of its course with mud and trees, the bar of the *Mississipi* multiplying those channels by stopping the vent of the water, and so forcing it to break out into new openings, through the softest and newest-formed earth near it ; and it might happen in time, if great care be not taken to prevent it, that all the passes should become alike impracticable, at least for ships.

Island of
Tbouloufe.

Opposite to the bar is the *Island of Tbouloufe*, formerly called *Ile de la Balise*, (Island of the sea-mark) from a sea-mark, some time since erected here for the conveniency of shipping. This island is about half a league round, including another island separated from it by means of a channel always wet. It is every where very low land, except in one place, which is never covered with the inundation, and comprehends sufficient room to contain the fort and magazine. Here ships may unload, when otherwise unable to get over the bar. The bottom is hard, clayey ground, with five or six small springs issuing from it, which leave a very fine kind of salt on the surface. When the river is at the lowest, or during the three hottest months, the water is salt round this island ; but in the time of inundation perfectly fresh, and retains this quality a full league out at sea ; at other times it is brackish after passing the bar. Hence what we are told of the *Mississipi's*, preserving its waters unmixed with the sea, for twenty leagues, is a meer fable.

Waters of the
Mississipi.

Principal *
channel.

The following is the state of the principal channel of the *Mississipi*, as examined by the Pilot *Kerlazio* in 1722. This opening runs North West and South East for the space of three hundred fathoms, it is 250 broad, ascending from the sea to the island of *Tbouloufe*, opposite to which are three small islands, which, though considerably elevated above the level of the water, had no herbage. All this way the depth of the channel in the middle is eighteen feet, on a bottom of soft mud : but such as are not acquainted must always have the lead in their hand. Ascending from hence four hundred fathoms more, in the same direction North West, there is still fifteen feet water, and the same bottom, with good anchorage all the way, and sheltered from all winds, except the South and South East, which might cause the driving of the ships from their anchors when it blows a storm ; but without danger, since they must strike on the bar, which is soft mud. Afterwards the course is North West, one quarter North East, for five hundred fathoms. The river at the bar is 250 fathoms broad between low lands covered with bushes, and has twelve feet depth ; and at half low water great caution must be taken, because of banks in the way.

Eastern chan-
nel.

In sailing through the Eastern channel, which is 250 fathoms broad, and from 4 to 15 deep, they steer full West for a league, and then all of a sudden find no bottom. Then entering the great channel, after leaving the bar, they sail still North West for the space of three

three hundred fathoms, constantly in forty five feet water. On the left is what the French call the *Passe à Sauvole*, by which shallops may go to *Biloxi*, steering their course Northwards. This channel takes its name from an officer, left by M. *Iberville* as commandant in the colony, when he returned to France. *Passe à Sauvole.*

Then turning Westward, one quarter North West, for fifty fathoms, and on the left hand, is a bay, at the end of which are three channels, one on the South East, another on the South, and a third on the West South West quarter. This bay has no more than ten fathoms in breadth, and one in diameter; and all these channels have very little water. Following the same course, fifty fathoms further, lies another bay, which is twenty paces in diameter, and fifty in depth within land. It contains two small channels, though they are hardly reckoned in that number, since a canoe of bark can scarce make its way through them. *Bays.*

From hence, you steer Westward five hundred fathoms, to the *Passe à Loutre*, or *Otter Channel*. This is on the right hand, and runs towards the South East. It is five hundred fathoms broad, but is only capable of receiving pirogues. Afterwards you sail South West twenty fathoms, and then standing Westward three hundred, after that West one quarter North West, for a hundred more; again as much West North West, then North West eight hundred, to the *Passe au Sud*, or the *Southern Pass*, two hundred and fifty fathoms in breadth, which has nine fathoms water at its entry into the *Mississippi*, and only two feet where it falls into the sea. Two hundred and fifty fathoms farther, is the *Passe au Sud Ouest*, or South West pass, of the same breadth nearly, and never less than from seven to eight feet water. *Otter channel.*

Near the entrance of the river, and on the East of the Southern passage, are the islands called *Isles de Chandeleur*, on which are found vast quantities of eggs of all manner of sea fowl. It is believed that between these islands and the land there is a passage for ships of the greatest burthen, and that it would be no difficult matter to make an excellent port here. The passage is bounded on the left by a series of small lakes, situated towards the extremity of that of the *Chetimachas*, and on the right, as above, by the *Isles de Chandeleur*, or *Candlemas Islands*. Large barks may go up as high as the lake of the *Chetimachas*, where they may freely cut fine oaks, with which all this coast is covered. Near this gut the lands begin to be less marshy, though they are drowned four months in the year. All along the banks of the river thus far you see nothing but sand and canes. It is also remarkable that, for the space of eleven leagues up the river, the banks are so bare and naked as to produce but two trees, both on the East side, and at a league distance from each other: The one is called *l'arbre à bouteille*, or the *bottle tree*, from a bottle hung on it when first discovered by the French, and inclosing a letter from some person informing his fellow travellers which way he had gone. The second is called *la Potence à Picard*, or *Picard's gallows*, and owes this ill omened appellation to a saying of one *Picard*, who, passing by this tree in a pirogue, said, if ever it were his fortune to be hanged, he wished it might be either on this tree, or at least on such another. Here too the banks begin to be covered with lofty trees, and those in such numbers, and so thick, as to becalm the ships that pass, so that they are often obliged to warp their way with the windlafs from point to point; whence it sometimes happens that they take up two months time to make the nineteen leagues hence to the capital. Were it not for this difficulty, ships might with ease sail up the *Mississippi* above five hundred leagues; and this might be removed by clearing its banks of the wood. *Chandeleur islands.* *Two remarkable trees.*

Some have been of opinion that the best way would be to shut up all the passes except the principal one, by conveying the trees which are continually floating from above into the other channels. The advantage arising from this improvement would, in the first place, be this; that, by rendering the river inaccessible even to small vessels and canoes themselves, the colony would be almost effectually secured from any surprise. The second is, that all the waters of the *Mississippi*, having been thus conveyed into one and the only remaining channel, would naturally, and of themselves, by degrees, hollow its bed, and possibly, in time, remove the bar itself. What has actually happened in regard to the two *Pointes Coupées*, already taken notice of, renders this notion far from being unreasonable. All that would then remain to be done, would be to keep the channel clear of any embarrassments from floating trees; a matter of no insurmountable difficulty. *Reduction of the Mississippi.*

As to the breadth of the river between the passes, that is, for four leagues distance from the island of the *Thoulouse* to the South West pass, it never exceeds fifty fathoms. But *Different breadth of the Mississippi.*

But just above this pass the *Mississippi* recovers insensibly, and by slow degrees, its ordinary breadth, which is never under a mile, and seldom above two miles. Its depth increases in like manner, from the bar upwards, contrary to what is in other rivers, which generally have their greatest depth nearest the sea.

Plantation
distant from
the river eli-
gible.

It appears that the plantations would be better placed, at least a quarter, if not half a league from the banks, than close by the river, from the inconveniences of living on land which is always moist, and where with ever so little digging you come presently to water, and consequently can have neither cellar nor vault. Perhaps too it might be no small benefit to remove farther off, and leave the intermediate grounds and settlements free to the inundations, which might possibly contribute much to their improvement. The mud, which remains after the waters are fallen, renews and fattens the soil, part of which might be employed in pasture, and on the other might be sown rice, pulse, and, in general, such plants as prosper best in fat, moist lands. The banks of the *Mississippi* might be made to produce, from its gardens, meadow and pasture ground, not only a stock of provisions sufficient to support the inhabitants, but might furnish articles in commerce proper for the islands and neighbouring colonies. Those who have sailed down this river, and gone on shore twice or three times every day, say that almost every where at the smallest distance from the banks are rising grounds, where houses and other buildings may be erected on solid and durable foundations, and where wheat would grow very well, provided the timber was felled, and by that means the grounds left open to the salutary effects of the free circulation of the air.

Navigation
of the *Missis-
sippi*.

As to the navigation of the river, this will always continue to be attended with difficulty in its ascension, on account of the strength of the current, which even obliges persons to be very careful when descending, as it often carries them upon the points which project into the river, and upon the breakers or beaches. Hence, to navigate with safety, they will be under the necessity of using such vessels as are proper for sailing and rowing at the same time. Besides, as it is impossible to pursue their way in the night, when dark weather, these voyages must consequently be always very tedious and expensive, at least till such time as the banks of the river become better and more closely peopled through its whole course, that is, from the river *Illinois* to the sea.

Coast of
Louisiana.

The coast of *Louisiana* is bounded, according to the *French* writers, on the West by *St Bernard's Bay*, where *M. de la Salle* landed, imagining it to be the mouth of the *Mississippi*. Into this Bay falls a small river, with several others, as into *Ascension Bay*; the inhabitants of the colony scarce ever visit this coast. Towards the East the coast is, by the same writers, said to be bounded by *Rio Perdido*, corruptly termed, by the *French*, *Riviere aux Perdrix*, or *Partridge River*. The *Spaniards* call it *Rio Perdido*, or, *the River which loses itself*, from its running under ground, and afterwards emerging, and continuing its course till it falls into the sea, a small distance Eastward from the *Mobile*, where the *French*, of this colony had their first settlement. The coast, from the Island of *Toulouse* to the *Isle aux Vaisseaux*, opposite to *Biloxi*, is so very flat, that merchants dare not approach nearer than four, and barks than two leagues of the shore; and even these latter must keep at a greater distance when the wind is North or North West, or else they will run aground, as it sometimes happens. The road lies along the shore of the Island *aux Vaisseaux*, extending a short league from East to West, and very narrow.

Mobile
*French settle-
ment.*
Isles Toulouse
*and aux Vais-
seaux.*

Isle Dauphine
described.

East from this island is *Isle Dauphine*, formerly *Massacre Island*, so called from the great quantity of human bones found in it on its first discovery, where the *French* had their first settlement in these parts. Its length from East to West is about 17 leagues, and its breadth from North to South one large league. It is constantly exposed to the burning heat of the sun, and the soil so barren as to be scarce productive of sallads and other greens. The soil consists of little more than sand, which near the sea is so white and glittering that when the rays of the sun fall directly upon it, the eye cannot behold it without great pain; and some have been obliged to leave it on account of this inconvenience, which endangered their sight. Though this island be entirely surrounded by the sea, it has this very great advantage, that by digging in the sand, at a very small distance from the shore, you meet with the greatest plenty of the finest fresh water. The anchoring place is at two leagues distance from the island, because of the sand banks. The seas about it abound with store of excellent fish. With respect to trees, the most common are, the pine and the firr, with some shrubs, and great quantities of a plant, which bears a fruit called *Pommes de raquette*, [Racket Apples] which is a sovereign remedy

medy against the dysentery and bloody flux. Sun-burns are also extremely frequent in this island. Here was anciently a commodious harbour, but destroyed by having its entry choaked with sand in two hour's time by a hurricane.

To the Westward of *Isle aux Vaisseaux* lie *l'Isle de Chats*, or *Cat-Island*, otherwise *Isles de Chats* *Bierville Island*, *isles de la Chandeleur*, or *Candlemas Islands*, and to the East are *l'Isle à Corne*, or *Horned Island*, and the *Isle Dauphiné* and a *Corne*.

On the continent opposite to the *Isle aux Vaisseaux* are the *Old* and *New Biloxi*, two *Biloxi Old* and *New* places remarkable for their having been successively the chief settlements of the *French* after their abandoning the *Isle Dauphiné*, and so called from an *Indian* nation anciently residing in this place, and since removed higher up the country towards the North West, on the banks of a little river called *la rivière de Perles*, or *Pearl river*, from the great quantity of pearls, of an ordinary quality, found in it. The situation of the *New Biloxi* is so bad that a worse could not have been found, both an account of the difficulty of its being approached by the shipping, for reasons already mentioned, and because the road has two great inconveniencies, *viz.* the extreme badness of the anchorage, and the swarms of worms which destroy the shipping, its sole use being to shelter ships from the violence of hurricanes in case of their standing in for the mouths of the *Mississippi* when they want watering, it being dangerous, on account of the flatness of the coast, to approach it otherwise. It is no better in respect of its situation with regard to the land; the soil consists only of sand, and produces nothing but pines and cedars, and the cassine, otherwise called the *Apalachine* plant, which springs up every where in great abundance. The heats are here prodigious in the summers, especially after the sun has set the sands on fire, if I may be permitted so to speak. And we are assured that were it not for the sea breezes, which arise regularly every day between nine and ten in the morning, this part would be absolutely uninhabitable. *New Biloxi* stands in thirty degrees fifteen minutes North latitude, as the mouth of the *Mississippi* does in twenty nine. The cold here in *February* is pretty sharp, when the wind comes from the North or North West, but lasts no long time, and is even sometimes followed with considerable heats, storms, and thunder, so that in the morning you are in the winter, and in the afternoon in the summer seasons, with intervals of spring and autumn. The breeze comes regularly always from the East, and when it proceeds from the North it is only the reflexion of the wind, and is less refreshing, but always welcome, as without wind here is no breathing at all.

Coasting along this shore, the prospect is always agreeable to the eye, but coming near it the scene is quite changed; the whole is a sandy bottom as at *Biloxi*, and nothing but gloomy woods are to be found.

Thirteen or fourteen leagues Eastward from *Biloxi* is the *Mobile*, on *Maubile*, called by the *Natives* and *English* *Chicasaw river* running from North to South, one of the principal rivers of *Louisiana*, on account of the *French* settlements on it, and falling into the sea opposite to *Isle Dauphiné*. This river takes its rise in 3 streams at the foot of a chain of mountains in the country of the *Chicasaws*, and after a course of a hundred and thirty, or, as others say, three hundred leagues falls into a bay of the same name, at the distance of four score leagues by sea from that of the *Mississippi*, at the Western entrance of the river is situated *le Fort Condé de la Mobile*, built of brick with four bastions, besides half moons, a good ditch, cover'd ways and glacis, in the method of *Vauban*; with a magazine and cazerns for the soldiers of the garrison, which is always very numerous. Twelve leagues to the North on the same side of the river. Is the *French Fort* called *Fort Louis de la Mobile*, built in 1702, and deserted in 1711. The bed of the *Mobile* is very narrow, and winding, and at the same time very rapid, but is navigable only for piragues when the waters are low. The *French fort* on this river was for a long time the chief settlement of the whole colony. It is most valued on account of its serving to keep in awe the *Chicasaws*, a numerous nation, forming a good barrier to the *French* against the *Chicasaws*, and other *Indian* nations, in the province of *Carolina*. Some say that a stone quarry has been discovered near this place; which may be made of great service. The soil near this river is said to be extremely barren, but the interior parts, and such as are at a greater distance from it, are tolerably fertile. A hundred and forty leagues higher is the *Fort of Tombéché*, built in 1735, to serve as a communication in the war with the *Chicasaws*. *Tombéché* is a kind of mountain, consisting of a white, soft stone, and is the canton which most abounds in cedars of the whole province; the earth here is also very proper for potters work. About sixty leagues from the mouth of the *Mobile* it receives on the left the waters of the river *Alibamous*, on which, at the distance of sixty leagues from its opening,

in the Country of the *Creek Indians* in *South Carolina* the *French* have built *Fort Toulouse*. This canton is said to be one of the finest countries in the whole world.

An unfertile
soil.

The soil on the coast, from *Rio Perdido* as far as *St Louis Bay*, is a very fine sand, as white as snow, and produces pines, cedars, and some green oaks. The river *Mobile*, whose bed is of a fine sand is far from being equal in plenty of fish to the river *Mississippi*. The banks from its source to the sea are equally unfertile, being nothing but gravel, with a small mixture of earth; and, though not absolutely barren, its productions differ extremely from that of such lands as lie contiguous to the great river. This country is in some parts mountainous, though it is not certainly known whether they have any quarries of stone fit for building. The lands are somewhat better about the river of *Alibamous*.

Communica-
tive of bar-
renness to
women.

The lands and water of the *Mobile* are extremely unfertile, not only in plants and fishes, but, as the quality of both these contributes much to the decrease of animals, the same effect happens with respect to the Inhabitants, many of the women having become barren on their settling in these parts; as, on the contrary, they have recovered on removing to the banks of the *Mississippi*. The interior parts of this country must be exempted from this quality common to many parts near the sea.

NATURAL HISTORY of LOUISIANA.

Introduction.

NO study can be more pleasing than that of Natural History, every advance therein disposes the mind to adore the Almighty providence, whose power, the more immediately it is examined, appears still more wonderful and beneficent: every new discovery is a fresh gratification to the curious inquirer, and its uses are manifest both in commerce and medicine. *Louisiana*, it must be confessed, affords a large field for the pursuit of this science, which has been the object of our careful attention, taking *du Pratz*, for our principal guide baiting with him at the most remarkable places, though without staying too long at one stage, or wasting the time in needless excursions, or too circumstantial descriptions.

Beautiful
country.

The inland country of *Louisiana* affords as great a variety of beautiful landscapes, as the imagination can form; the fields are diversified with the sweetest flowers, and the slopes conveniently covered with woods, where the beasts find a sure shelter from the dews which fall here very heavily.

Herds of
beeves.

As you advance the country becomes pleasanter and more fertile. Game abounds on every hand, and it is not uncommon to meet with five or six hundred beeves feeding in a herd. When you fire upon one, the rest run away; but if the creature at whom the hunter aimed, is not disabled, he turns with infinite fury upon his assailant. Deer are every where seen in numbers, and large roe-bucks, which sometimes march under the direction of a white one of their own species, whom they all seem to respect, treading exactly in his steps, and none presuming to advance before him.

Deer, roe-
bucks.

Natural,
observation.
Singing birds.

In the woods are many sorts of song-birds, that delight the ear, nor is their concert disturbed by the hawk, or any other bird of prey. In travelling, if a man chances to be necessitated to pitch his tent near a large lake or river, he is not to expect much rest; for the screaming of the flamingos, the cranes, herons, wild geese, ducks, and other water fowls are sure to keep him waking.

Water-fowl.

Mines and mi-
nerals.

Here are mines of gold, silver, copper and lead, with good coals, and water near at hand to render the working them cheap. In some places they find rocks of hard crystal, marble, a substance resembling porphyry, salt, salt-petre, and sometimes stone fit for building. But these last are in many parts so scarce as not to be found in a space of 100 leagues.

Grain and
pulse.

European grains and pulse thrive here very well. They have also various sorts of maize, and what we call *Turkey* corn, which is natural to this country, shoots up a stalk 7 or 8 feet high, with 6 or 7 beards, each perhaps 2 inches in diameter, and containing 6 or 700 grains. This grain flourishes best in a light, loose soil, is good nourishment

nourishment both for men and beasts, and especially fattening to fowl. They have beans of different colours, as red, black, &c. called the forty days bean, as it runs up in that time, and is good food, and the apalachene bean, which is delicate eating, but rather insipid, if not well dressed. The latter was either brought from *Guinea*, or from the *English* at *Carolina*. The stalk creeps the length of 4 or 5 feet on the ground, and the leaf resembles that of ivy.

Their pompions are of two sorts, one of which is round, and but little regarded; Pompion. the other has a firm pulp with few seeds: and being cut in form of a pear, or of any other fruit, is laid by to keep in jarrs, covered with sugar, of which it requires but little, being naturally sweet and pleasant; it is also used to give a relish to fricassees, soups, and sauces. Melons of every sort are found in *Louisiana*, but all much better Melons. than those of *Europe* of the same species. The water melon is here particularly fine, transcending that of *Africa*, and is perhaps the most delicious in the world. It sometimes weighs 30lb. is very light and refreshing, melts in the mouth like snow, and may be given without any danger to the sick. The seed is flat and oval, sometimes black, sometimes red; but the former produces the best fruit, if sown in a light soil, which is the most proper, otherwise it degenerates, and the melon it produces, contains a reddish kind of seed. They have also fine potatoes, from which the Potatoes. *French* distil a strong spirit, so that they afford both meat and drink.

Vines are here so plenty that a man cannot go 100 yards from the coast for 500 Vines. leagues to the North, without meeting with a vine circling round a tree; but so shaded from the heat of the sun that the grapes seldom attain any degree of ripeness. But with proper management our author thinks good wine might be made of them; and he takes notice of a vine here bearing two crops of fruit within the season. Among them he thinks he found the currant, the Burgundy, and the Muscadillo grape. Here is A sort of medlar made into bread, a sort of medlar, called by the *French* Placminier, or Piacminier, the flower of which is white; composed of 5 petals. The fruit is rather sweeter and more delicate than the medlar, which it otherwise resembles, being however as large as an hen's egg. The natives make it up in cakes, a foot and half long, a foot broad, and an inch high, carefully separating from them the skin and seed, and dry them in the sun or with a gentle heat, the former is the better way of preparation, as it preserves the flavour. The *French* buy this cake, which is good against the dysentery and gripes after a proper cathartic. But in this case it must be taken not at random, but medicinally, being of an astringent nature,, and the fruit of which it is made should be gathered ripe.

Here is a pleasant violet plum, which in a garden might be made tributary to the Plum. table's elegance; and another of a bright cherry colour, small, but too four to be Cherries. eaten. It is common to meet with a small cherry, which communicates a pleasant relish to brandy, and may perhaps be the same with what is used for that purpose in *England*, and distinguished by the name of mazarine. The bluet is a shrub producing Bluet shrub. a blue, sweet fruit, like a gooseberry, which agrees well with brandy, and is said to have some good physical qualities.

The black mulberry is not found in *Louisiana*, but they have the red, and two sorts Mulberries. of white, one of which is very sweet and palatable. The first of these makes good vinegar, provided it be kept in a shady place, and close stopped. As the mulberry is extremely common, the manufacture of silk might be easily introduced, the leaf being the nourishment of the silk-worm.

The olive here is a fine tree growing often to the height of 30 feet, yielding pa- Olives. latable fruit, and excellent oil. Among other kinds of walnuts, this country pro- Walnuts. duces one as big as a large egg, which is pleasant enough, but the shell so hard, that the getting at it is scarcely worth the pains. The natives bruise the nut, and then throwing it into water continue stirring it, till the skin and oil being quite separated from the pulp, the two former swim upon the surface, and of the latter, which sinks to the bottom, they make a cake. There is a smaller nut of this kind, so very bitter, Smaller Sort. that none will meddle with it but the perroquet, to whom it seems a most delicious morsel; if we can judge, by his activity and noise, while upon the tree. This nut is smaller than ours, and the shell is soft. Of the bark, which is white, and close grained, the natives make a sort of spade to use in the fields. Hazel-nuts require a less Hazle-nut. fertile soil, and therefore are not here in great plenty.

The copalm is very common, and the balm which distils from it has an infinity of Copalim. good qualities. The bark of this tree is black and hard; its timber too soft for any use; besides, it always runs into splinters, so that there is no working of it. A small quantity

quantity of it thrown on the fire yields a most charming odour, but there would be no bearing much of it without suffocation; its leaf is a pentagon pointed like a star. The balm of this tree is a wonderful friend to human nature; the quantity of 10 or 12 drops taken in a dish of tea is a febrifuge. It cures a green wound in two days, and is equally efficacious in all sorts of ulcers, provided the sore be first prepared by a plaister of bruised ground-ivy. It cures consumptions, removes obstructions, relieves the cholic, and all disorders of the bowels, and cheers the heart.

Virtues of its
balm.

Cedar red and
white.

Cypress.

Laurel-tulip-
tree.

The red and white cedar, according to our author, are both incorruptible, so soft that they are easily wrought, and their odour, which is exquisite, is sufficiently strong to destroy insects. The cypress ranks, next to the cedar in value, and is by some held above corruption. This is certain that neither one nor yet 2 centuries will corrupt it; as was observed from one found 20 feet under ground at *New Orleans*, which tho' buried 200 years, was yet not in the least impaired. Out of the trunk of one of these trees, it is used to hollow a canoe of not more than an inch in thickness, which shall carry 3 or 4000 weight. The branches of the cypress are few, the leaves small and slender, and wood of a beautiful reddish colour, soft, light, yielding and compact.

The laurel-tulip, which is entirely unknown in *Europe*, grows to the height and thickness of a common wall-nut, the top of it is round, and so framed as to be impenetrable both to sun and rain. Its leaves are pretty thick about 3 inches broad and 4 long: the upper part of a fine sea-green, the under white. The bark is tough, and of a dark-brown; the wood soft, white and flexible. It takes its name from a large white flower, that adorns it in the spring, and has a fine effect at a distance. The fallen flower is succeeded by a fruit resembling the pine apple; and its grain changes to bright red, at the first return of the cold season. The parroquets, are fond of it, as it is very bitter, and some esteem it a febrifuge.

Sassafras.

Sassafras, well known among the faculty, is a large, thick tree with a coarse, chapped bark, and a cinnamon-colour wood, which is easily worked and has a pleasant smell, particularly when burning. But it must be assisted by some other wood in its conflagration; for as soon as the auxiliary fuel fails, it goes out, as if water had been cast upon it.

Maple and
wax-tree.

Its fruit.

Far to the Northward the maple grows upon the high lands, and yields a syrup said to be an excellent stomachic. The wax-tree must be especially useful in this country where the bees are obliged to deposit the fruits of their labours under ground, to protect them from the bears, their great enemy. At first sight the bark leaf, and height of this tree will impose it on you for the laurel. But the leaf is less bright and not so thick. Its fruit comes in clusters and produces a tail about 2 inches long, to which hangs a small almond, inclosed in a nut covered with wax. This wax is of two sorts, a yellowish white, and a green; of which the former bears more than double the price of the latter. It is gathered by throwing the nut into boiling water, whereby the wax is totally separated from the skin, swims at top, and is easily skimmed off, and made into cakes for use. This tree is not delicate in its situation, it grows as well in the deep shade of the wood, as in open sun-shine, in a dry as a warm soil, and is equally common in *New Orleans* as in some parts of *Canada*, where the weather is as cold as in *Denmark*. This wax bleaches quickly and well, and makes as solid and as good candles as any in *Europe*.

Cotton-tree.

The cotton tree of this climate has but little title to that name; it has a pentagonal leaf, and a fruit about as large as a nut containing its seed. The wood is yellow, solid hardish, and useful to joiners. The bark is fine and compact; that of its root will stain red, and is sovereign in cuts.

Acacia.

Oaks.

The inhabitants look upon the wood of the *Acacia* to be perennial. Of it they make their bows, a use for which it is very proper, on account of its toughness; and it serves the *French* in house building. The black oak takes its name from the colour of its bark. The wood is hard, of a deep red, and may perhaps be hereafter found useful in dying; this our author infers from its communicating a red colour to such rain as falls upon it. Besides the black, they have red, white and green oaks, and the last has been found as good in workmanship as any other.

Other sort of
tree.

You find also good elm, beech, elder, willow, &c. of which they make wheels, which there is no necessity of binding with iron in a country where is neither gravel nor stones, and where you may travel some hundred of leagues without meeting with any. We should have remarked that the gardens are not destitute of lemons, oranges, citrons, and peaches.

The

The ayac-wood is a shrub with a leaf resembling the laurel, but yielding a much less pleasing smell; it distils a yellowish water, which the natives use in colouring their skins. It is of a glutinous quality, and might grow to some height, did they not take care to curb its growth by lopping. Ayac-wood.

The leaf of the machoneti, or vinegar-tree, resembles the beech, and mixed by the natives with their tobacco for smoking, as it takes off some of its acrimony, it has an astringent quality. The leaf of the apalachine taken as tea is a stomachic, and the natives by boiling it procure an intoxicating spirit, of which they are very fond. It grows generally to the height of 15 feet, has a smooth bark, a close wood, and bears a seed on which black-birds like to feed. Machoneti.
Apalachine.

Love-wood (*bois d'Amourette*) grows 10 or 12 feet high, and of a moderate bulk. It is fenced with short, thick prickles, which are easily removed, and contains a pith like that of elder, whose leaf it also resembles. This shrub has 2 barks, the exterior of a dusky hue, the interior of a very pale red. The bigness of a pea stripped from the latter and chewed, gives ease in the toothach. Love-wood.

The natives hold in high estimation a shrub called the passion-thorn, which is covered from the root to the branches all round with prickles shaped like a cross, so that one must be cautious in touching it. *Du Pratz* knows nothing of its virtues, and here he closes his account of the arborific productions of *Louisiana*, with observing that tho' he has described every thing that came to his knowledge, yet he has not so much of the traveller about him as to go farther. He takes notice however, in this chapt. of a kind of agaric, or champignon, that grows under the wall-nut tree, particularly when fallen, which the inhabitants, who are very choice in their food, gather carefully, and having boiled in water, mix with their gruel. It is delicate, a little insipid, but easily made relishing. Passion-thorn
Agaric.

There is another excrescence called *Spanish beard*, found sticking to the branches of trees near the sides of lakes and rivers. It is of a greyish colour, but when dried, the outer skin falls off, and discovers a skin of long, black threads, as strong as horse-hair. This excrescence may be used in stuffing quilts, couches &c. The *French* on their first coming found it a good ingredient in their mud for building. It is said to be incorruptible, and derives its name from the resemblance the natives found between it, and the beards of the *Spaniards*, who were the first *Europeans* they saw. Spanish beard.

Among the variety of creeping plants, which the richness of the soil renders very common, the barbed creeper is not the least remarkable in that it has such a liking to the copalm, or balm-tree, that it will pass by any other to attach itself to this. It derives its name from being covered with an hairy excrescence, about an inch long, hooked at the end, and no thicker than a horse-hair. A decoction of this creeper is a certain cure for a fever, and tho' bitter, it excels quinquina in as much as it fortifies the stomach, whereas the latter is accused of having a contrary effect. Barbed creeper.

This country yields as good sarsaparilla as any in the world, and here is a shrub very like it, bearing a small nut, smooth on one side, and rough on the other, like the cowrie shells that pass as money on the *Guinea* coast. Our author is silent as to its properties, which he hints to be something mysterious, saying, 'the use of these nuts is too well known to the women and girls of *Louisiana*, who have recourse to them oftener than they should. Reader! make thine own inference. Sarsaparilla.

L'esquine is a kind of thorny bramble, found among canes, with a shining, hard stalk and a spongy root. It is a famous sudorific; and a constant washing of the head with a strong decoction of it, contributes so much to the growth of hair, that it will bring it down to the ankle. L'esquine.

Of canes or Reeds here are 2 sorts. What is found in marshy places the natives work into mats, sieves, hats, baskets, and various other kinds of things. The produce of the dry grounds is not so large, but so very hard that, before the coming of the *French*, the natives used them in cutting their victuals. At the end of a certain number of years these canes, having attained full maturity, produce a crop of grain, every way larger than oats, which the inhabitants carefully gather, and make into bread. The Reed then dies, and it is a good while before another springs up in its place. Canes.

The *Plat de Bois*, the *Wooden Platter*, is highly esteemed by the native physicians for its sudorific effects. It bears, upon a strong stalk 16 or 17 inches high, a cinnamon coloured leaf, about 2 inches long, and one broad, with a blossom like broom, its seed lies within a sort of crowned calix cup. Plat de Bois.

Rattle-snake. *L'herbe à serpent à cornettes*, the rattle-snake-root, called in the language of the country *Oudla coudlogouille*, grows about 3 feet high, and bears a purple flower with 5 petals, about an inch broad, and formed like a cup. This flower, falling off when ripe, shews a sort of nut, divided into 4 separate apartments, each containing a small black seed. If you shake this nut it sounds exactly like a rattle-snake, as if nature thus wisely gave it voice to proclaim it's virtue; it is an absolute remedy against the bite of that dangerous reptile, by applying it chewed to the injured part; for in 5 or 6 hours it entirely draws out the venom. A plaister of the ground-ivy of *Louisiana* laid close to the skull gives present ease in the headach; and our author cured a friend, in a few minutes, of a megrin, by making him snuff up salts extracted from this herb.

Ground-ivy,
cure for the
headach.

Achetchy. The achetchy is a very valuable plant, found generally in the shade of the forests, and growing not more than 6 inches high. The natives boil the root, and then by squeezing it hard obtain a beautiful red dye, which they apply variously.

Strawberries,
hemp, flax.

In the beginning of *April* appear whole fields covered with the finest strawberries. Hemp grows spontaneously, and the flax-seed that has been brought from *Europe* thrives exceedingly. The plains are covered all the summer with diversity of fine flowers, of which if our author declines an account, it is because he rather applied himself to matters that might be useful to society, rather than to those of mere curiosity. He takes notice however of one flower called the lion's mouth (*gueule de lion*) which is, he says, a nosegay in itself, on account of it's beautiful colours and durability; as it seldom dies in less than 3 or 4 months. In this country, they also raise, indigo, cotton, tobacco, hops and saffron.

Lion's mouth.

Wolves.

The wolves of *Louisiana* are seldom more than 14 inches high and every way proportioned, they are so tame that they come down to the habitations in search of food, and retire without hurting any body. If the huntsman when he encamps at night near a river, discerns a wolf lurking in the environs, he may assure himself that there is a herd of cattle not far off; and the wolf serves as a guide to them, being rewarded with the offals. These animals stimulated by hunger, attack the wild cattle before and behind. In the latter they shew some cunning for the creature looks about him and stands upon his defence. When they have brought down one beast they strangle him, and then proceed to another; for they destroy as many as they can, without regard to what will serve their turn.

Story.

It happened that 2 men, sailing up a river in *Louisiana*, went ashore at night to lie, and covered themselves closely from the rain, having brought every thing on shore from the canoe, which they fastened to a stake in the strand, with thongs of cow hide instead of rope. One of them, more careful, rose as soon as he waked to look after the canoe, and when he came to the water saw it was gone. As they were 50 leagues from any habitation, the accident alarmed and made him very uneasy. He roused his companion with the unhappy tidings, and both repaired to the beach, where soon after the moon shining out with a good degree of clearness, shewed them their little vessel smoothly dancing down with the current. One of them immediately stripped and soon came up with it, nor was he intimidated from boarding it instantly, tho' he found a stranger at the helm who glared upon him with a most menacing aspect, then leaped into the water, and left him clear possession. This stranger was a wolf, which during their sleep, had climbed into the vessel in search of provision; but finding nothing else made free with the cable, and then put off from shore, without meaning any harm.

Black wolves.

Two large black wolves, of a much stronger species, and more carnivorous than those common to the country were killed here in our author's time. They were supposed to come from some distant climate, the oldest inhabitant never remembering to have seen any of them before; one of them was a female, big with young.

As we have dwelt largely on the bear, buffalo, elk, and some other quadrupeds in our account of *Canada*, the reader would blame us to repeat them. Wherefore we shall confine ourselves generally to the notice of such as have not been before mentioned.

Small tiger.

Among these is a small tiger, scarcely more than twenty inches high, and every way proportionable. His skin is of a bright bay colour, but has none of those marks that render it in other countries valuable, it is very quick and active, but no way, daring, for it will run from the sight of a man, and increase it's speed if shouted after. This our author affirms from his own knowledge, having one time rescued his dog, and another time his pig, from this animal's voracious jaws. What he calls the pichou which, he says, is as high as the tiger, with a most beautiful coat, and an enemy to poultry, may be perhaps the leopard.

Pichou.

The

The foxes here think the farmer's yard beneath their notice, as they find sufficient ^{Foxes.} subsistence in the woods. Their hair is thick, smooth, of a deep brown colour; underneath it is long, and silver coloured, which has a pleasant effect, they are vastly numerous among the woods of the small hills, and here also the tiger and pichou most commonly inhabit, nothing but hunger bringing them down to the farms.

The wild cat of *Louisiana* is very different from that of *Canada*, or indeed from any ^{Wild-cat.} other of the species, and very improperly so named, it having nothing of a cat about it, but its nimbleness. It is easily familiarised to a house, and then it becomes larger and fatter; but its skin is not so beautiful as that of a fox. It is not above 8 or 10 inches high, sometimes 15 long, and when tamed full of diverting tricks. This animal is sometimes served up to table, and not bad food. It lives upon fruit and vegetables, and is not fond of game; to catch which its short claws were never formed by nature.

The head and tail of the wood-rat are like those of the common rat, only his ^{Wood-rat.} tail has hardly any hair upon it, if you take hold of it, it winds about your finger. It is a slow, lazy animal, which scarcely any thing can put out of its common pace; but it has cunning enough on apprehension of danger, to counterfeit death so well, that the deceit was not to be discovered, nor will it stir, though you should toss it about till you are weary. It is very common, and easily taken. Nothing can be more defenceless; and though it is a violent enemy to poultry; the blood of which it sucks, one would imagine it had no enemies among the brute creation. The down is thin, greyish and rough; the natives spin it, and makes girdles of it, which they die red. It climbs well, and seeks its prey in the night. The flesh is very good food, tasting like young pig; the fat is said to allay the pain of the rheumatism and sciatica. See more particulars of this little animal, and our account of squirrels, porcupines, &c. in the *Natural History of Canada*, p. 38.

The beaver, hedge-hog, crocodile, and some land tortoises are found in these re- ^{Other beasts.} gions, with frogs a foot and half long, the croak of which is loud and horridly disagreeable. In the woods and Savannahs are several sorts of serpents, none of which is so much to be feared as the rattle snake, whose tail, in which is a rattle, proclaims the ^{Rattle snake.} danger of his coming, and that plant which is an antidote against his poison, is always ^{Reptiles.} found near him. We have here also chameleons, various other sorts of lizards, and very large spiders.

We shall now proceed to the birds and fishes peculiar to this part of the world, in ^{Birds and} which our author confines himself, with his usual fidelity, to describing such only as ^{fishes.} he had an opportunity of knowing; and these, he observes, are very few in comparison with what the country affords. The eagle is not here so large as in *Europe*; its ^{Eagle.} feathers are white edged with black, vastly esteemed by the natives, and used in adorning their calmut, or signal of peace. They have also several sorts of hawks; but ^{Hawks.} their birds of prey rather level their rage against hares, rabbits, squirrels, and other quadrupeds, than against their own species.

Their swan is large, fat, and good eating; and its feathers in high estimation for ^{Swan.} adorning crowns, and making head-dresses for women, and tippets. It flies high, and is larger than ours.

The saw bill so named from part of its bill being indented like a saw, lives only, as ^{Saw-bill.} it is said, on shrimps, which it picks from the shell, after breaking it with its bill. The crook-bill [*bec-croche*] is as large as a capon; its feathers are white, and its flesh, ^{Crook-bill.} though red, good eating. It feeds on cray-fish. The hatchet-bill [*bec de-hache*] takes ^{Hatchet-bill.} its name from the resemblance of its bill, which is red, to the edge of a hatchet, it is sometimes called *red-foot*, the legs and feet being of a beautiful red. It hunts by the sea-side in search of shell-fish, on which it subsists, and its retreat within land is an infallible sign of a storm. The king-fisher differs from that in *Europe* only by the ^{King-fisher.} beauty of his plumage, which displays all the colours of the rainbow.

Our author observes, that when the booby, the man of war-bird, and chefs bird, (one seemingly of the same species, but swifter flighted, and chequered with brown and white) fly low, they are sure prognosticks of a storm; whereas the appearance of a ^{Prognosticks} halcyon is quite the reverse; an observation known to all the world. He describes ^{of a storm.} the last as somewhat larger than a swallow, with a longer bill, and the finest violet ^{Halcyon.} feathers, with two streaks of yellowish brown near the extremity of its wings, and one coming over the back.

He

- Observations on that bird. He says that one of them, to the great joy of the sailors, followed the ship, in which he returned to *Europe* for 3 days, during which time it often dived, to pick up, as he supposed, such insects as chanced to drop from the sides or bottom; and rose exactly where it disappeared. As it made no use of its legs or feet in this submerſion, like other aquatic birds, he ſuppoſes it to have been aſſiſted in its motion by the ſuction of the ſhip; and he was confirmed in this opinion by its taking wing when it left them.
- Parroquets. The parroquets are eaſily taught to ſpeak, but, like the natives are ſeld m heard. They are moſtly of a fine ſea-green, with a ſaffron-colour head, reddiſh near the bill.
- Corbijeau. The corbijeau is very common, and as large as the woodcock; the feathers exhibit a pleaſing variety of colours; the beak is crooked, long and reddiſh, which is alſo the colour of its feet. The author prefers its fleſh to that of the woodcock; he alſo ſlights the meat of the pheasant, which is however, in his eye, the moſt beautiful bird he ever ſaw: but he has omitted to deſcribe it; and his figure of the flamingo is ſo incorrect, that we may venture to aſſirm it was never drawn from the life, or, if it was, the artiſt muſt have been a ſad bungler. The number of wood-pigeons which ſwarm here in winter, and in *Canada*, where they remain till autumn is aſtoniſhing; in *Louiſiana* they feed upon acorns, in *Canada* they do much miſchief by devouring the grain. They may be taken by finding out their receſſes, and fumigating them with briar ſtone in the night. By this means they fall from the branches in heaps, and torches ſhould alſo be provided to frighten them, and afford light at the ſame time for collecting them.
- Pope. We have already ſpoken of the cardinal; and ought to beg pardon of his inviolability for not having given precedence to the pope, a bird with red and black feathers, but of a grave aſpect. When it ſings, which is rare, its notes are ſoft and weak, as if it were old.
- Biſhop. We ſhould be wanting in reſpect to the dignity of the two laſt mentioned eccleſiaſtics, if we took no notice of an inferior order of clergy provided to attend them; wherefore the naturaliſts have appointed them a biſhop. He is not ſo large as a finch, and feeds upon a ſort of millet, natural to this ſoil; his wings are of a deep violet, and the reſt of his plumage a dark blue. His ſong is ſo harmonious, and his notes ſo ſoft and various, that thoſe who hear him ſcruple not to ſet him in competition with the nightingale. It continues it here a quarter of an hour, without ſeeming to breathe: he then pauses, and when once he begins ſeldom ceases, except to reſt, in leſs than 2 hours.
- Accident. One of theſe birds was wont to viſit *M. du Pratz* every evening, which in the end had like to have almoſt literally verified the proverb, and have brought an old houſe about the good father's ears. A large oak, on which his viſitant was wont to perch, and of which he was therefore very careful, came thundering down one ſtormy night upon his roof, and went near to demolish it.
- Besides theſe, and many others, of which we have no account, they have here the flamingo, the carion-crow of the *Antilles*, the grand-gofier, ſometimes called a pelican, cormorants, cranes, wild geefe, wild ducks, teal, widgeon, divers, wild turkeys, herons, egrets, ſpatulas, golains, bitterns, gulls, ſea-pies, ſnipes, partridges, owls large and white, ſwallows, martins, wood-peckers, ortolans, turtles, nightingales, black-birds, finches, wrens, and humming birds.
- Inſects. Among the moſt remarkable inſects is the ſilk-worm, one called the tobacco worm, which is very deſtructive to that ſhrub, and caterpillars; the latter are indeed few, but produce butterflies of incomparable beauty. In the meadows are black graſhoppers, or locuſts, which ſeldom leap, and ſeldomer take wing. They are often 3 inches long, and as thick as ones finger, with a head like a horſe, and have beautiful purple wings.
- Graſhoppers. Cats feed on them with great avidity. The bears ſearch eagerly for honey, without regarding the ſtings of the bees, which its rough ſkin prevents from feeling. The bees here either burrow under ground, or retire to depoſit their honey in the depth of the foreſt, whither their enemies ſeldom penetrate.
- Bees. The green fly is larger than the common bee, and his back is covered with a beautiful green armour, which has a pleaſing effect. The fire or lanthorn-fly abounds here, as alſo cantharides, which inflames the ſkin that they touch, and may be fed with aſh-leaves. Brimſtone burned morning and evening is ſure to drive away the inſkettoes, as our author has experienced. Here are many other ſorts of troubleſom creatures, too tedious to mention.
- Green fly. Fire-fly. Cantharides.
- Fiſhes. Of fiſh we have here the ſurgeon and ſardinia fiſh, barbles 3 or 4 feet long, carp, pike, eal, oysters, muſcles, and many others, which have been either deſcribed above, or have not come under the inſpection of the authors whom we have conſulted.

Of the Origin, Manners, Customs, Laws, and Religion of the ancient
Inhabitants of LOUISIANA.

HAD we undertaken a complete account of a country which had preserved its annals and records from age to age, and had undergone, as well as most others, revolutions in literature, we doubtless should begin its history with tracing the origin of the people. But, as we have no lights from ancient history or tradition to shew us the direct way, we are obliged to take a contrary course, and from considering the manners, customs, laws, and religion of the different nations or rather tribes, of this vast tract of land, and comparing them with those of other nations, endeavour to deliver some probable conjecture concerning their first origin and extraction: the necessity of this manner of proceeding will we hope excuse our seeming defect in point of method.

The industry of the inhabitants of *Louisiana* extends no farther than their necessities: to supply themselves with subsistence, and provide security against the inclemency of the seasons, is the utmost extent of their invention. To cut down trees for fuel and building, they had such a sort of hatchet as that used by the natives of *Canada*; their knives were formed out of a reed, which is very common; their bows were made of *Acacia*, and strung first with a tough bark of a tree, but exchanged in process of time for thongs twisted of the skins of the beasts which they hunted down; the feathers of birds afforded them ornament, and their utensils, dress &c. as were much the same as has been already described in the history of *Canada*.

The continent of *America* appears to have been very populous before the arrival of the *Spaniards*; as is evident, both from tradition, and the histories of their discoveries and conquests. The destruction made among these people by the *Spanish* arms is too well known to need in this place a recapitulation.

We are assured also that many tribes, both in *Peru* and *Mexico*, devoted themselves voluntarily as sacrifices to the manes of their sovereign, who perished either by nature or the sword, while others, preferring suicide to slavery, fell the victims to liberty by their own hands, to escape the tyranny of the *Spaniards*.

The warlike disposition also of some of these people has helped to thin them considerably. For while instigated by revenge, animosity, or some other passion, they waged long and bloody wars with their neighbours, they weakened themselves very much, though even crowned with conquest.

They have been also visited by two diseases, which have made considerable ravage among them, and against which their physicians, or cunning men, have no defence, though in other cases often wonderfully skilful. These distempers are the small-pox and colds. They fall before the small-pox like grass under the scythe; for they live all under one roof, and neither light nor air can enter but through the door, which is seldom more than four feet high, and two broad. This disorder no sooner seizes one, but the whole family, not even the oldest excepted, contract the infection. As they are naturally clean-skinned, and well made, consequently greatly alarmed at the eruptions of the pustules from this distemper; they fly to the water, to wash them off, if possible, and though they know it to be a fatal resource, they will persist, unless prevented by some of their friends.

Our author desires us to observe, that in the maps and charts of *Louisiana* there will be found many more nations named, than he takes notice of in his history: but this he desires the reader will not impute to his neglect, but to the carelessness of travellers, who have taken many things upon trust, and given imaginary situations to nations, with whose bare names they were only acquainted: some of these perhaps no longer exist, and others have been swallowed up by their more powerful neighbours, among whom their name is intirely lost. Upon the whole, he says, it is certain, that their number is greatly diminished, and that scarcely more than one third of the country, marked in the maps as populous, is at present inhabited.

On the first establishments, made by the *French* in this country, they carried on a friendly correspondence, drove some trade with the *Alibamous*, who are no friends to the *English*, and lie North of the *Apalachins*. They are a powerful people, but of late

late the intercourse with them has been dropped, as being too far removed from the *Mississippi* river on the banks of which the colony is settled.

Chatots nation.

After this our author gives a succinct history of the nations inhabiting the banks of the river *Mobile*, from its mouth upward. The *Chatots* consisting of about 40 hamlets, are nearest the sea; they profess themselves *Roman* catholics, and endeavour to shew the *French* every act of kindness in their power. The *French* colony of *Fort Louis* lies near them to the North.

Thomez.

Taensas.

A little North of the fort are the *Thomez*, a small catholic nation, whose servile friendship often makes them troublesome. The *Taensas* consisting of about 100 hamlets, are a little more to the North. They are derived from the *Natchez*, and commit the care of the eternal fire to young men; being strongly persuaded that women would never sacrifice their liberty to it. But more of this hereafter. Near the bay is found the *Mowill* nation, called by the *French* *Mobile*, whose name is also given to the river and bay. The *French* on their arrival here found all the small nations at peace, in which they still continue, being covered on the East by other nations, which stand as bulwarks between them and the *Iroquois*. The *Chickasaws* regard these nations as brethren, because they speak the same tongue, which is the language of those bordering on the East of the *Mobile*.

Mobile nation, river and bay.

Pacha-oglouas nation.

The *Pacha-oglouas*, or the nation of bread, consisting of about 30 hamlets, lies West of the *Mobile*, near a bay bearing the same name. Among them are mixed some *Canadians*, who live with them as brethren. For as they are naturally of an easy temper, and well acquainted with the characters of the different people, they know how to deport themselves amicably among any of the *Indian* nations.

Languages.

The *Taensas* have preserved among them their native tongue, which is that of the *Natchez*, but they speak a corrupted *Chickasaws*, called by the *French*, the *Mobilian* language. The *Chat-kaws*, who, in comparison of the *Chickasaws*, are mere moderns, preserve also their own tongue intermixed with some *Chickasaw* words; and our author discoursed with them in the latter tongue. These people are dependant on *Great Britain*.

Aqueloa-Pissas nation.

There is a small nation within a league of *New Orleans*, and North of the lake, with which the *French* have no great communication; they speak a sort of *Chickasaws*, and have about twenty hamlets, or rather huts. They are called *Aqueloa pissas*, which signifies a nation that can both hear and see; the *French* call them *Colapissas*.

Oumas.

On the East coast of the *Mississippi* river lies the *Oumas*, or red nation. Some *French* who were at first fixed here, did them great prejudice, by allowing them an immoderate use of strong waters. *New Orleans* is about 20 leagues distant.

Tonicas.

The *Tonicas* a fragment of a nation always upon good terms with the *French*, are situated up along the river *Mississippi*, opposite the Red River. They used to assist the *French* in their wars, and their chief was strongly attached to their interest, which being properly represented at *Versailles*, the king, by brevet, appointed him brigadier of his armies, and sent him a gold headed cane, and a blue ribbon, to which was hung a silver medal representing his marriage. And the reverse was a view of *Paris*. Of these signal marks of friendship the Indian was very ostentatious. The *Tonicas* differ in some particulars, and a little in their language from the neighbouring nations: as for instance, in using the letter *R*, to which the others are strangers. Their chief abovementioned was wounded in assisting against the *Natchez*, who were formerly one of the most respectable of all these nations, both with respect to their customs and behaviour.

Natchez.

Grigras.

In 1720 the *Natchez*, were settled on and about a small river, to which they gave name. They had among them two nations, who had implored, and obtained their protection; one of these the *French* call *Grigras*, from their frequent uttering these two syllables. But this name will hardly appear consistent with our author's observation, that those people were easily distinguished by strangers among the *Natchez*, as being incapable of pronouncing the letter *R*. Their language is nearly the same with that of the *Chickasaws*. The other nation settled among the *Natchez* is the remainder of the *Thioux*, a people once very formidable, warlike, and restless, by which means they drew upon themselves the indignation of the *Chickasaws*, whom they resisted with desperate obstinacy, and never gave way till they were no longer able to oppose the arms of their enemies.

Thioux.

These

These three nations together can now muster about 1200 men, whereas tradition informs us, that the *Natchez* were formerly the most powerful nation in all *North America*, and respected by all others as their superiors. They formerly stretched from *Manchare*, which is 50 leagues from the sea, to the river *Wabache*, at the distance of 460. Among them were 500 princes, whom they called *juns*, [*soleils*] nothing could exceed the vanity of these grandees, in preparing the detestable custom of permitting people to sacrifice themselves upon their funeral bier; a destruction which men and women voluntarily, nay gladly embraced, imagining by this action to secure to themselves a happy situation in a future world; that they should be retained in the service of their prince, without fear or punishment, that they should not suffer by hunger, thirst, heat, or cold; that they should have every sort of food they could wish; and to crown all, they should neither suffer nor die. It must however be observed that two branches of these people, whose princes were more humane than the rest, withdrew from the main body, and with some few followers settled upon distant lands to preserve their people from falling a prey to this desperate barbarity. These are the *Taensas*, of whom we have just now spoken, and the *Tchitimachas*, whom the *Natchez* always regarded as brethren.

Natchez formerly powerful.

Tragical effects of vanity and credulity.

Forty leagues North keeping the great river on the East, are the *Yazoux*, possessing about 100 huts on the banks of a river, to which they give name; and farther upon this river are the *Coroas* in about 40 huts; who pronounce R.

Yazoux, nation and river.

Coroas nation.

The *Chactioumas*, or red lobsters, have about 50 huts on the same river. The *Oufé-cuglas* about 60, and the *Tapouffas* not more than 25.

Chactioumas.

Oufé-cuglas.

and *Tapouffas* nation.

Illinois.

North of the river *Wabache*, near the banks of the *Mississippi* are the *Illinois*, who give name to a river, along the sides of which they are scattered in several villages, near one of which, called *Tamarouas*, there is one of the most considerable *French* settlements possessed by some *Canadians*: for these people have been always staunch to the *French* interest, and assisted them as much as possible in their discoveries, particularly of *Louisiana*, nor is that complaisance, which gives them so easy an ingress among other *American* people, any mark of their want of courage, which has been often tried and approved.

Tamarouas, *French* settlement.

The *Renards* lie farther North, and are a large nation, who have for a long time been in peace, tho' they were formerly fond of war. The *Sioux* are a vast way beyond these, without any intermediate nation, and are dispersed East and West, on both sides of the great river. In going from the sea North, keeping West of the river *Mississippi*, the first nation we find is a very small one, known by the name of *Tchona-chas*, and *Onachas*, the last being a small village united to it. It lies between the river *Mississippi*, and the lake.

Renards.

Sioux.

Tchona-chas and *Onachas*.

In this neighbourhood are also the remains of the *Tchitimachas*, who from a numerous people are dwindled into nothing. Many of them were destroyed by the *Indians* in alliance with the *French*, whom they therefore hate, and prefer living solitary and remote from other people, and especially declining all correspondence with those *Europeans*, to whom they would by no means be obliged. The first occasion of this difference was their murder of a missionary, who was going down the river. His death was revenged: and hence hostilities commenced on both sides. This nation, which is not of a martial turn, lost many of its bravest people; in consequence of which they sued for peace, and it was granted them, on condition of their bringing in the head of the assassin. They did so, and at the same time presented the calumet to the *French* governor.

Tchitimachas.

At war with the *French*.

Along the western coast, not far from the sea, there is a nation of men-eaters, who are supposed to feed upon their enemies. The *French* call them *Atac-assas*, but our author says they have some more proper appellation, which he could never learn. They correspond with other *Indian* nations, but have no communication with *Europeans*.

Canibals.

The adventures of an officer of some consideration, who in the infancy of the colony fell into the hands of these *Anthropophagi*, may not be thought perhaps amiss in this place, as it may afford proper caution to people, whose fortune may lead them into this part of the world. A vessel from *France* coming to an anchor at the bottom of the river *Mississippi*, the captain-general sent down a brigantine, on board which was Mr. *Charleville*, a *Canadian*, perfectly well acquainted with all the *Indian* nations, among whom he had often travelled, with orders to the master to supply the brigantine with an officer and a few soldiers, to proceed on discoveries; but the

Adventure of an officer among the canibals.

the particular orders our author has not noted. The master, in compliance with the governor's orders, sent an officer, named *Belle-Isle*, a serjeant called *Silvester*, and some men on board the brigantine, with whom she proceeded to *St. Bernard's Bay*. Here the crew went ashore, pleased with the beauty of the country, which abounded with game, whereby they were tempted to walk in the woods, farther than prudence should have suggested; nor were all the remonstrances of *M. Charleville*, whose experience had taught him that the consequences might be fatal, of force to dissuade them from a proceeding of which in the end they had reason heartily to repent: when they left the ship, the master warned them not to wander too far, and desired they would return early in the evening. He also told them that if they did not return back that night, he would fire two warning guns in the morning, and set sail in two hours after, if the wind continued fair; promising moreover, that, if they should not appear betimes in the evening, he would fire a gun for directing them to the sea-side. He kept his word, and they heard the discharge at the time appointed, but imagined from the reverberation, that it came from a contrary quarter; so that what was intended for their preservation, led them farther astray. In the morning, the signal guns of departure were fired from the brigantine, and the Captain waited for them, till he almost lost his tide, to no purpose; the next day, ammunition beginning to run short, *Charleville* struck off to the *East*, supposing it the way to the river, but could not prevail on his company to follow. The serjeant quite spent with fatigue and hunger, dropped down under a tree, where probably he ended his days. *Belle-Isle* being young and vigorous kept up his spirits, and proceeded, till in a little time, he lighted on a wood-rat, an animal extremely sluggish, which he knocked down, flead and devoured with high relish. Sometime after, he fired upon a roe-buck, which he killed, and having husbanded his ammunition, had a little left, but the noise of his piece brought down upon him some of the natives of *Atac-assas*, in whose country he was, and he found himself surrounded, and a prisoner, before he had the smallest apprehension of danger; resistance was in vain, and it was to as little purpose to endeavour informing them by signs of his being a traveller, who had missed his way. Had he known the customs of this part of the world, where the people lie in ambuscade, and steal upon their enemy like a wolf on its prey, he would not have gone a step without looking cautiously about him to prevent a surprise; and in that case he would have gone up directly to the first man that approached him, with a pleasant yet resolute countenance, laid down his arms, and held out his hand in token of amity. A traveller in such circumstances, who observes these directions, has nothing to fear; but may promise himself every possible assistance. He remained several months in slavery among these people, but the nature of his employment, or the hardships he underwent, we are not told: it does not appear, however, notwithstanding their anthropophagan characters, that they had any intention of fattening him for the spit or the pot. At length he was discovered by his mein to be a *Frenchman* by certain *Indians* of *New Spain* who had brought hither the *Calmuc*. They named to him *M. St. Denis* who commanded among the *Nachtichoukas*. It was all he understood of their language; but he knew the name to be *French*, and expressed his satisfaction by signs at hearing it. He then made a shift to scrawl upon a bit of paper, which he luckily had about him, that he was a *French* officer of *Louisiana*, who had been lost with *Charleville*. This he directed to *St. Denis*, and dispatched it so privately by two *Indians*, whom their countrymen gave out to be lost, and delayed their departure, under pretence of waiting their return. The two *Indians* did not stay long, but when they came back, kept themselves very private in the woods, contriving however to give notice of their proximity to their comrades, and conveying by the same channel to *St. Denis's* answer, the sum of which was a direction to take these two men for two guides; and depend upon this conduct, for his safe deliverance from the present calamity; which was accordingly effected. We should have remarked, that his ink, when he wrote to *St. Denis*, was charcoal, pounded and mixed with water, and a sort of pen made of a turkey quill; and also that the correspondence between him and his unexpected friends for his release, was carried on so privately, that his task-masters had not the least suspicion of it; so that he found it easy to secret himself in the woods, according to his instructions.

Bayonne-Ogoulas Territory. The people who once inhabited the territory called *Bayonne Ogoulas*, are now dispersed elsewhere. On the border of two small lakes to the westward, covered by a craggy point of land, is a nation known only by name to the *French* called *Ogoulas*, *Louffas*,

Louffas, or *Black Water*, because the lakes are covered with leaves which give the water that colour. Between these and the *Avoyels*, a small nation inhabiting the banks of the red river, which is very rapid, we find the country quite deserted. These people used to supply the *French*, settled at *Louisiana*, with horses, cows and calves, at a very moderate price. At present they have them in vast plenty, without any purchase.

Ogué Louffas.

Avoyels Nation.

Fifty leagues up the red river, near a *French* settlement, is the nation of *Natchitoches*, consisting of about 200 huts, they have no love for the *Spaniards*, but are well attached to the *French*, who have a settlement very near them. There are some scattered branches of this nation, but none of them numerous.

Natchitoches.

About a hundred leagues from the place where this river falls into the *Mississippi*, are the habitations of a vast nation called *Cadodaguious*, which extends in different tribes a vast way. They as well as the people beforementioned, have a language peculiar to themselves; but that of *Chickasaws* is understood among them all, like *lingua franca* in the *Levant*; they call it the vulgar tongue.

Cadodaguious.

The *Ouachitas* are intermixed among them, having abandoned the black river, to which they gave name, to avoid the rage of the *Chickasaws*, who dare not follow them; for the same reason the *Taensas*, who formerly inhabited this coast, near a river to which they lent their denomination, withdrew to the neighbourhood of the *Mobilians*, where we before took notice of them. These martial gentry also made war upon the *Arkansas*, a nation of good warriors, and able hunters, but met a reception so very warm, that they were glad to desist, more especially as they found them joined by the *Kappas*, *Mitchigamias* and a party of *Illinois*. There are no other people on the banks of this river, though the contrary has been advanced by former travellers.

Ouachitas.

Arkansas Kappas, Mitchigamias Nations.

The *Missouris* are a numerous people, on the banks of the famous river so called. The *French* had here a settlement, the garrison of which was surprised and cut off by the natives. There are many other small nations about the *Missouris*, the recaptulating which would be tedious; and north of them all, a branch of the *Sioux* was thought formerly to have resided. Our author is inclined to believe, that they formerly were to be found on both sides of the great river; and he justly observes that we must be content to wait some centuries before we can arrive at any certain knowledge of the vast tract of land running *North of Louisiana*.

Missouris.

The first *French* settlement made in this province, was upon the *Mobile*, where the commander in chief resided; but since the foundation of *New Orleans* on the banks of the great river, which is now the capital, it has been in a good measure deserted. Here is however a garrisoned fort, with four strong bastions, that secure the furr trade on this side, awes the neighbouring nations, and cuts off the *Chatkaws* from corresponding with the *English*, who are also curtailed in their views on the *Chickasaws* side, by fort *Tombec*, built in 1736.

Fort Tombec.

Not far from the *Mobile* is a settlement of some *Canadians*, who contented with little, prefer the small advantages of rural labour to all the profits of tillage; and who only visit *New Orleans* when they want necessaries.

A rural settlement of Canadians.

Among the different nations into which *Louisiana* is divided, *Du Pratz* informs us that of the *Natchez* is the most remarkable; being not only very numerous, but better polished than the rest, their way of thinking more consistent with humanity; their sentiments more refined; and their customs more reconcilable to reason: therefore in describing the customs and manners of the people of this country in general, he draws his information principally from the *Natchez*.

Natchez, a polished nation.

The natives of *Louisiana*, and almost all the *Americans*, are strong, nervous, and well made; with black eyes and hair, regular features, and none less than five feet and a half high; the women are rather lower than the men; but giants, dwarfs, and deformed men are unknown among them. They are white when born, at which time care is taken to wash them in cold water: by degrees they become brown, and to this, the rubbing them with oil and bears fat, contributes not a little: besides which, it renders their limbs more flexible, and saves them from the stinging of the muskitoes. As they grow up they are furnished with bows and arrows proportioned to their strength, and by way of exercise and diversion, try their skill at a mark. He that excels is sure of great praise, and stiled the great warrior, a title of which they are not a little proud: they also delight in running races.

Complexion and stature of the natives.

As they live to a very great age, the oldest of a family is the most respected, and his will obeyed with as much caution as if he was a sovereign prince. Great care is taken to prevent among them quarrels and disputes; they rarely happen. All are

Respect paid to old age.

taught the use and necessity of labour ; but the women are rather more employed than the men, they are obliged when young, every morning to wash and swim under the direction of one of their elders, without regard to sex, (mothers who have the care of infants excepted) and this inures them to fatigue, strengthens their limbs, and fits them better for war. They never strike or beat their youth, but endeavour to instruct them by repeated precepts and example.

Their belief. These people believe in one great and good God incapable of evil, who created the world, and whose common commands are executed by angels, or subservient spirits, of which an inferior order who have offended him, govern in the air ; and these they invoke for rain, or sun-shine, as it may be wanting to the ground. Man he created, say they, with his own hand, and the whole world is the produce of his wisdom and power.

The sacred fire explain'd. The sacred fire, of which we have before made some mention, was, according to the account given of it to our missionary, by the principal person entrusted with the care of it, enkindled by means of a miraculous flame, brought from the sun, by a holy person who had descended himself from that planet, and whom they had chosen for their sovereign, submitting to a set of laws which he laid down for their government, and which were admirably adapted to the advantage of society.

Precept of their first grand Soleil. He taught benevolence, social love and resignation to the divine will, as points indispensably necessary to be observed ; to avoid quarrelling, and to detest murder, adultery, untruth, avarice and drunkenness. From him are their sovereigns descended, who are also called soleils, *Suns*, for he lived to a very great age, and saw the children of his children flourish. Our author astonished the priest, who had given him this account, by enkindling some fuel with reflection of the sun beams upon a piece of glass, which glass, the grand soleil intreated of the father as a very great favour ; it was given him, and he was very fond to use it.

Government of the Natchez. This monarch, if we may be so allowed to call him, governs with despotic power ; he has no law but that of reason, and disposes at will of the lives of his subjects. So good use does he happen to make of this authority, that no evil attempt upon him is ever heard of. His stipends are very considerable, tho' not stated, being free gifts, pledges of his people's love, and respect, and never levied by any sort of taxation.

Feast of the new corn. Among their many religious festivals, the most solemn is, that of gathering in the new corn, on which they all assemble to feed in common, and have some particular ceremonies, with a relation of which we shall not now detain the reader. They are particularly tenacious of precedency, whether in public or private, and such is the distinction of sexes, that a boy of two years of age, is permitted to take place of a woman. Each man is absolute in his own family, as long as he lives ; he governs his children, and his children's children, with an uncontrollable rule, and when he dies, the next to him in years assumes the domestic command.

Their rules for intermarrying. They never marry within the third degree, and the oldest of each family, agree upon the terms of the match, without consulting any of the minors, whom, however they never join against their consent ; the man having first asked her hand of the woman.

Marriage ceremonies. The day for the ceremony being arrived, the bride is conducted to the house of the bridegroom by all her family, with silence and solemnity. They are received at the door by all his friends, who invite them to enter the house, which they do, with few words and little ceremony. For compliments and talkativeness, are by them deemed loss of time. Having seated themselves, after some space, the old men on each side arise, and the contracted parties do the same. A short speech is then made them, in which they are desired not to marry unless they find themselves impelled by mutual liking ; and previously resolved to live together happily ; " this union," says the ancient orator, " must be of your own choice, think not your friends are here assembled " to force your inclinations ; if either of you has any objection, declare it, that we " may break off." The father of the bridegroom then delivers the portion intended for his son, into his custody, and he, having asked the love and hand of the bride, and being answered satisfactorily, gives it in keeping to her father. The nuptials being celebrated with some other ceremonies, their company gives themselves up to merriment, and generally dance till morning.

Grand division of the people. The *Natchez* are divided into two grand classes. *viz.* The nobles and the people. The people are also distinguished by an appellation that implies stinking, *Miché-miché-Quipy*, however they do not much relish being called so. They each of them have a language

language peculiar to themselves, that of the nobles being much the purer and more excellent, being strong, smooth and copious, having nouns substantive declined like the Latin; without articles.

The nobles are divided into soleils, nobles and respected (*confidés*). We have already made mention that the soleils are so named, because they are descended from a man and a woman, who made the people believe they came from the sun, the *French* for which is *Soleil*. This couple commanded that their posterity should be always distinguished above the main body of the nation; that none of them should be on any account put to death, but be permitted to end their days in peace according to the course of nature. Subdivisions.

In order to preserve purity of blood, the title of soleils is only transmitted in the female line. The male children bear the appellation but for their natural lives; their issue are ranked among the nobles, and the offspring of these among the *confidés*, or respected; thus declining until they are reduced among the people. Nor is it unusual for a *Soleil* to live to see his posterity thus degenerated. When the grand *Soleil* dies, he is not succeeded by any of his children, but by the eldest son of his nearest kinswoman; and at his or her interment, the husband or wife is always put to death to keep them company in the world of spirits. And often, all his next of kin, voluntarily devote themselves to the flames, or fall by the sword. The natives of this country are in general very superstitious, observers of omens, the flight of birds, &c. and curious to dive into the secrets of futurity. When one people, are about to declare war against another. A council of their oldest and best warriors is assembled in a hut, at the door of which the calmet of war is fixed on a pole. The occasion of the intended breach is then discoursed upon, and immediate hostilities always recommended by the chiefs, in which they find their account, being in war more respected and invested with more authority than in time of peace; their determination is always subscribed to by the chief or sovereign, the council being held in his presence, and he, as well as his subjects holding in the highest esteem the elders and their judgement. Sometimes it is agreed, to send an ambassador to the power, with whom they are at variance, to offer the calmet of peace, but without any presents, least it should be thought they wanted to purchase it, in the mean time they solicit the aid and assistance of their neighbours. They most commonly march by night to prevent their enemies discovering them, and carry on the war as much as possible by ambuscade and surprise, taking care to leave behind them as few marks as possible whereby they may be traced. Such women and children as they make prisoners they enslave, the men they reserve for a public sacrifice, putting them with great cruelty to death; and drowning their cries with incessant repetitions of the war-hoop. Rank transmitted in the female line.
Superstition of these Natchez.
Councils of War.

None but the soleils and guardians of the sacred fire are permitted to enter the temple containing the sacred fire; the guardians are eight; their business is to see the fire kept up, two of them are always acting, and they are relieved quarterly: the sacred fire is preserved in more temples than one, that it may be restored, in case of its expiring in one place, from another.

The ashes of the first grand soleil are deposited in the grand temple of *Natchez*, in a sort of urn made of cane, and very prettily wrought. It stands upon an altar four feet high, six long, and two broad. They have a particular veneration for the memory of their dead, and erect a sort of tomb over every body that is interred, to which for a great while they carry victuals and drink. All the nations of *Louisiana* have their respective temples, which are either grander or meaner, according to their respective force or wealth. That of *Natchez* in particular, is a solid regular building, on an eminence near a small river, it is about thirty feet every way; the wood composing it being cypress, is deemed incorruptible; and on the roof; which is shelving, are three large birds cut in wood, something like geese, and looking to the East.

They have few holidays, and scarcely any sort of diversions; except a fatiguing game, resembling our pitching the bar, and playing the quoits both intermixed, of this they are so very fond, that they often play away every thing they have, and when thus reduced, become public spoilers, taking by force from the neighbours, whatever they may stand in need of. In their visits, they speak little, the guest takes his seat, and rigid silence is observed, till he breaks it. You never see two people in company chattering at the same time; and for this they laugh at the *French*, who often all talk together. Their diversions.
Their visits.

Their

Their food,
and beverage.

Their food is beef, venison, bear's and dog's flesh, with every sort of aquatic birds, and fish without exception. They either roast their meat on a wooden spit, or broil it, and they have maiz served up at all their meals, differently prepared; or in lieu of it potatoes. They have no set hours for dining, except at public entertainments, when they all sit down together, and in token of unanimity eat out of the same dish, the women and children excepted, who have their respective shares given to themselves: at other times, they eat or drink, according as they find they have appetite. They are afraid of made dishes, and the *French* have never been able, either by example or reasoning, to persuade them to their soups, or ragouts; they not knowing what to make of the ingredients. They will drink nothing but water, or brandy, the clearness of these liquours determine their goodness; for if it be clear, they do not think it can possibly be sophisticated.

Their fasting.

When they want to make intercession with heaven, for any particular benefit, they make interest with one of their elders reputed for sanctity among them, to intercede for them. He does it by fasting nine days, during which time he abstains entirely from venery and from all manner of food till sun set, when a mess of gruel without salt, and a draught of water is brought for his refreshment.

Regard to the
grand soleil.

Besides the obedience and profound respect paid by the *Natchez*, to the grand soleil, they are so strongly attached to him; that when his nearest relations die, not only all those who are in his train, but numbers of others, sacrifice themselves to the manes, to have the honour of attending him or her, in the world to come, and hence comes it, that this nation is not near so populous as it might otherwise be.

This nation
destroyed by
the *French*.

In the year 1730, they were entirely cut off by the *French*, on account of their having joined in some schemes intended for their destruction, so that at present scarcely any thing remains of this once celebrated nation, but the name. Most authors who treat of this vast tract, observe that the best way of keeping peace with the different people, is to keep them at such a distance, as may impress them with awe and veneration; but this impression vanishes if you treat them with too much familiarity, verifying the proverb: "that familiarity breeds contempt."

Commercial
advantages
to be drawn
from hence.

France draws considerable advantages from the furs of *Louisiana*, and in our hands they might be greatly improved. Large profits might also be drawn from the hides, and fat of their oxen, for which alone the different nations kill them. The fruit of the wax-tree, is also a commodity worth dealing in, as are the various kinds of woods for house-building, ship-building and ornament; and for the compleating a naval force, here is plenty of hemp, and excellent iron.

The soil seems admirably adapted to the bearing of salt petre; and vast quantities of silk might be produced, as the worms thrive here well. Saffron, saffrafras, the copalm balm, and various other kinds of useful druggs are the produce of these climates, and always sure of a ready market in *Europe*.

A conclusive
character of
the country.

To give a brief character of *Louisiana*, we may venture to affirm that it abounds in grain, cattle, and rich commodities, which the many streams watering the country, and falling into the great river *Mississippi* render still more valuable; and no part of the world seems more happily adapted to second the operations, and improve the glory of a maritime power, than this province of *America*.

The End of the Account of LOUISIANA.

- p. 135 *Point Coupe*:
Literally, Cut Point, located north of present-day Port Hudson, Louisiana, above Baton Rouge.
- p. 136 *Moingona*:
The Des Moines River. The name given here refers to the Moingwena Indians who lived on its banks.
River Theakiki:
The Des Plaines River.
Forks:
Where the Des Plaines River and the Kankakee join to form the Illinois.
Pisticoui:
The Fox River.
Mascoutins:
The Mascouten Indians, a branch of the Peoria tribe.
Fort of the Miamis . . . the Rock:
The Fort of the Miamis probably refers to Fort St. Louis built here in 1682-1683 by La Salle and Henri de Tonti. The Rock is probably the so-called Starved Rock.
- p. 137 *Lake Pimiteoui*:
Near present-day Peoria, Illinois. Jefferys states the distance to the Mississippi as twenty leagues. Charlevoix states the distance as seventy leagues, which is more correct.
Saguimont:
The Sangamon River, about sixty miles below Peoria.
Tamarouas:
A village of Indians of the same name, located at the mouth of the Illinois.
- p. 138 *Tribes of the Sioux*:
Here Jefferys has miscopied again. The tribes are of the Illinois Confederacy.
River Merameg:
The Meramec River. Jefferys refers to the lead mines of the La Renaudiere Company.
- p. 139 *Waters . . . perfectly transparent*:
Jefferies is here contradicting an earlier statement which he quoted from Charlevoix that the Missouri River was white as it entered the Mississippi.
Fort Orleans:
In north-central Missouri near the mouth of the Grand River on the Missouri River.
Saved from the general carnage:
This is probably a badly garbled version of the ill-fated Villasur expedition of 1720. It was the Pawnee who perpetrated the massacre and not the Missouri. The incident occurred not on the Missouri but at the junction of the North and South Platte Rivers in west-central Nebraska, and at least a dozen survived. See John Francis Bannon, *The Spanish Borderlands Frontier, 1513-1821* (New York: Holt Rinehart & Winston, 1970), 129-130.
- p. 140 *Padoucas*:
The French name for the Comanche Indians.
- p. 141 *Kaskasquias*:
From Jefferys' description it is not made clear that Fort Chartres, founded in 1719, lies north of Kaskaskia, which was later a British post that was captured by George Rogers Clark in 1778. Due to the shifting of the river's current, Kaskaskia is now under the Mississippi River.
- p. 142 *Cape St. Anthony*:
This is probably present-day Cape Girardeau, Missouri.
A fort here:
This is the site of present-day Cairo, Illinois.

p. 143 *Iron mines:*

The reference is no doubt to the chalk cliffs about twenty miles below Cairo, Illinois.

River Margot . . . Assumption Fort:

Fort Assumption is commonly believed to have been located near the mouth of the Hatchie River between Chickasaw Bluffs number one and two. From the description, however, Jefferys or rather his source Le Page Du Pratz is almost certainly referring to the Wolf River at the fourth Chickasaw Bluff where Memphis, Tennessee is located and where Fort Prudhomme is believed to have been. Supporting this contention is the fact that the Spanish referred to the fourth bluff as the *ecore a margot* or simply, Margot bluffs.

Panis ricaras:

The Black Pawnee, but more properly the Wichita, one of the principal tribes of the Caddo linguistic family. The French West India Company established the so-called Arkansas Post a short distance up the Arkansas River, where Henri de Tonti, a lieutenant of La Salle, had left a garrison in 1686.

Fork of the two branches:

The Arkansas and White Rivers now flow separately into the Mississippi.

M. de la Harpe:

Bernard de la Harpe engaged in several trading and exploring expeditions on the head waters of the Arkansas and Red Rivers. He was responsible in 1719 for reestablishing Arkansas Post on the site occupied earlier by Tonti.

p. 144 *Law's Grant:*

John Law, the financial advisor to the Regent Phillippe d'Orleans of France, was a Scotsman who enjoyed tremendous influence in France. He conceived the scheme of locating Palatine Germans in Louisiana, but the so-called Mississippi Bubble collapsed before it was seriously undertaken and led to Law's bankruptcy. See Adolphe Thiers, *The Mississippi Bubble: A Memoir of John Law* (1859; reprint ed., New York: Greenwood Press, 1969); and H. Montgomery Hyde, *John Law: The History of an Honest Adventurer* (1948; reprinted, London: W. H. Allen, 1969).

Pointe Coupee:

Another Cut Point, which from internal evidence would seem to be near Greenville, Mississippi. Until rather recently, with the advent of flood-control activities, the Mississippi was constantly shifting its channel.

Grant of M. le Blanc:

Identified by Le Page Du Pratz as Secretary of War and by Charlevoix as the Secretary of State.

p. 145 *River of the Tunicas:*

Probably the Old St. Catherine Creek or the Homochitto River.

p. 146 *French fort:*

The fort mentioned was located near Natchitoches, founded in 1714, and was the oldest settlement in Louisiana.

Second Pointe Coupee:

Near Port Hudson, Louisiana.

p. 148 *Englishman's Creek:*

The so-called English Reach, the great bend in the Mississippi River below New Orleans. The reader should compare Jefferys' account with the map.

p. 150 *Pilot Kerlazio:*

Charlevoix's pilot.

p. 152 *St. Bernard's Bay:*

Matagorda Bay on the Texas coast between Galveston and Corpus Christi.

Isle aux Vaisseaux:

Ship Island.

p. 153 *Fort Conde de la Mobile:*

Fort Mobile, at the site of present-day Mobile.

Fort of Tombeche:

Fort Tombeche was probably at the site of Jones Bluff, Sumter County, Alabama according to Albert James Pickett, *History of Alabama . . .* 2 vols. (Charleston: Walker and James, 1851) pp. 284, 315. This is present-day Epes, Alabama; William A. Read, *Indian Place-Names in Alabama* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1937) p. 69.

p. 154 *Fort Toulouse:*

North of present-day Montgomery, Alabama, on the Coosa River just above its juncture with the Tallapoosa.

p. 163 *Manchare . . . to the river Wabache:*

That is, from the river Iberville to the mouth of the Ohio. The correct distance is more correctly 250 leagues rather than 460 leagues.

Calmut:

Peace pipe.

p. 164 *M. St. Denis:*

Louis Juchereau, Sieur de St. Denis, made two expeditions into the area of Texas, the first in 1714.

p. 168 *Improve the glory of a maritime power:*

Here Jefferys is anticipating the acquisition of Louisiana by the British. As noted in the introduction, his work contributed to the British decision to take Canada.

